



June 20, 2020

To the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) Commissioners and Department, Los Angeles City Planning, and the Los Angeles Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering:

We, the board of the Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council, write today in reference to your departments' procedures and application processes for cell tower additions to the utility poles under your department's management.

Firstly, we are aware that one of your departments recently received an application from Verizon Wireless for a permit to install a new cell tower at 2823 Wabash Ave (U-Permit Reference Number 2019011279) in Boyle Heights. To whomever this permit was addressed, we write today to request that your department deny this application.

Secondly, it should be noted, that our community and this board has expressed vigorous and consistent opposition to new cell tower construction within Boyle Heights. Last year our board passed a resolution calling for a moratorium on all new cell towers construction in Boyle Heights.

This board and our community stand united on this issue for many reasons. We are an historic neighborhood, one of the oldest in the city, and feel the new towers are ugly and do not fit with our community's aesthetics. The utility poles in Boyle Heights are old and we are concerned they are not meant to support the additional weight of a tower. And, most importantly, our community has expressed real concerns regarding the radiation from towers and the potential health issues they can cause. For your review, we have enclosed two studies with this letter that details the very real health risks these towers pose.

Therefore, our board requests that your department adopt a policy of accepting no new applications for cell towers in Boyle Heights. During this pause we further request you significantly revise your application requirements for new cell tower construction. As stated before, we do not welcome them in our neighborhood, therefore we feel the requirements should be sufficiently steep so as to deter companies from developing them here.



We believe the fee for application should be significant—an amount that would require the developer to think if the tower is truly worthwhile. We do not believe it makes sense for applications for towers to be submitted piecemeal. Rather, a developer should be required to submit complete coverage maps and plans for the entire grid they hope to add to Boyle Heights before any towers are approved and we believe there should be a hard cap on the total number of towers a developer can submit.

We are aware that currently developers are only required to submit notification of a planned tower development to property owners, not renters, within a certain radius of the proposed project. We believe the renters within that same radius deserve the notification as well and the right to contest the development.

We believe no tower should be added within a 1-mile radius of a school or a nursing home.

Finally, we believe the developer should be required to make appreciable improvements to the streets/intersection where the tower is added for both pedestrians and drivers and further that the developer should be required to commit to a significant community improvement project within Boyle Heights as a gesture of goodwill to the community.

We recognize that these revisions to your application processes are significant and therefore we ask that a task force be formed with representatives from each of your departments to oversee this process. We believe these minimum application requirements should be consistent across your departments and further, we believe it's appropriate that our council as well as other neighborhood councils concerned with cell tower construction be given a seat on this task force to insure the new guidelines take the wishes of our residents seriously.

We make these requests respectfully as a community that understands the history of environmental injustice all too well. When the East LA Interchange was proposed, people were excited about the new options available to commuters. Concerns about the consequences to Boyle Heights and the air its residents breathe were ignored. Today we still pay the price.

Let's not make the same mistake again with unnecessary cell tower construction. There is no current need in our community for these towers and our community does not want them.



Respectfully,

The Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council

CC: Los Angeles City Attorney, Los Angeles City Council Chair, Nury Martinez,
Council District 14, City Council :