

June 25, 2024

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Ari Ballonoff, and I live at 1945 E. Chenango Court in Cherry Hills Farm West. I am writing in opposition to the proposal to add three 100-foot cell towers in our open spaces adjacent to residential homes. I grew up in the Village, living here intermittently since 1977. In 2013, I moved my family from Park Hill to CHV in order to allow my kids to have access to open space and to escape some of the health hazards associated with living in urban areas, including exposure to radiofrequency electromagnetic fields (RF-EMF) associated with cell towers. When I saw this proposal, I honestly thought it was a joke or a mistake. I was quite disappointed when I realized it was not.

I am a radiation oncologist and I treat cancers with radiation. I have been practicing for 16 years at Saint Joseph Hospital in Denver. I am acutely aware of the effects of electromagnetic fields (radiation) on the human body. As more and more cell towers are being placed in close proximity to humans, more and more population-based studies are coming out suggesting adverse health effects associated with proximity to cell towers including, but not limited to, increased cancer mortality (especially lung, breast and cervical cancer), impaired cognition (specifically in children and adolescents), nausea, irritability, insomnia, and delayed fine and gross motor skills. I am attaching some references to illustrate these points. If you read these references, the health effects extend to a radius of 500 meters around the cell towers (some references suggest 1000 meters).

The mechanism by which these RF-EMFs may cause these symptoms is not entirely understood. However, there is more and more scientific evidence that low frequency electromagnetic fields interfere with cell division in humans by disrupting mitotic spindle formation during cell division. This science has even led to us using these low frequency EMF fields in the treatment of cancer, a treatment which is entirely different from the more well-known use of high energy ionizing radiation to kill cancer cells by damaging DNA. I prescribe a device for patients with brain cancer named Optune, which is a device that attaches electrodes to a patient's scalp; these electrodes emit low frequency alternating electric fields and has been proven to slow down the growth of brain cancer. I have attached this reference also. This interruption in cellular division may well explain the potential effects of RF-EMF on humans living in close proximity to cell towers. (It is important to note that the FCC has not updated its guidelines on RF-EMF emissions since 1996; thus, their regulations around safe levels of exposure do not reflect recent studies.)

Because of the potential harm associated with cell towers, if this proposal passes, I will likely move out of my beloved CHV to protect me and my family.

In addition to the potential adverse health effects, these cell towers will no doubt deface our beloved open spaces and interfere with the wildlife that most of us love, greatly decreasing the appeal of CHV to potential buyers and greatly decreasing property values. Because of these potential health risks and the other adverse effects of these towers, I encourage CHV to look for other solutions to the cell phone coverage issue. We have an opportunity here to protect the health of our CHV residents, young and old. Please call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ari Ballonoff

Cell: 303-882-1438

Relevant References

- Balmori, A. "Evidence for a Health Risk by RF on Humans Living around Mobile Phone Base Stations: From Radiofrequency Sickness to Cancer." *Environmental Research*, vol. 214, Nov. 2022, p. 113851, <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35843283/>.
- Gómez-Perretta, C, et al. "Subjective Symptoms Related to GSM Radiation From Mobile Phone Base Stations: A Cross-Sectional Study." *BMJ Open*, vol. 3, no. 12, Dec. 2013, p. e003836, <https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/3/12/e003836>.
- Khurana, Vini G, et al. "Epidemiological Evidence for a Health Risk from Mobile Phone Base Stations." *International Journal of Occupational and Environmental Health*, vol. 16, no. 3, 1 July 2010, pp. 263–267, <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/20662418/>.
- Meo, Sultan Ayoub, et al. "Mobile Phone Base Station Tower Settings Adjacent to School Buildings: Impact on Students' Cognitive Health." *American Journal of Men's Health*, vol. 13, no. 1, 7 Dec. 2018, p. 155798831881691, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6775553/>.
- Pinheiro, Cristina, et al. "The Effect of Continuous Low-Intensity Exposure to Electromagnetic Fields from Radio Base Stations to Cancer Mortality in Brazil." *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, vol. 18, no. 3, 29 Jan. 2021, pp. 1229–1229, <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33573059/>. Accessed 26 Apr. 2023.
- Stupp, Roger, et al. "Maintenance Therapy with Tumor-Treating Fields plus Temozolomide vs Temozolomide Alone for Glioblastoma." *JAMA*, vol. 314, no. 23, 15 Dec. 2015, p. 2535, <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2475463>. Accessed 15 Mar. 2020.

Steps you can take:

1) **Attend the upcoming city meetings on the topic:** It is especially important that we **pack the room** at the upcoming City Council meeting, and that residents use the 5-minute audience participation time to explain why they oppose the plan.

July Meeting Dates

City Council Meeting - Tuesday, July 16, 2024 at 6:30PM

Cell Phone Town Hall - Wednesday, July 17, 2024 at 6PM

2) **Call or email City Council:** Residents can reach out, via phone or email, to the mayor and to all city council members (not just their own rep), expressing their opposition to the plan and their reasons for opposing.

Katy Brown, Mayor, kbrown@cherryhillsvillage.com, 303-860-0262

Randy Weil, District 1, rweil@cherryhillsvillage.com, 303-725-1706

Earl Hoellen, District 2, ehoellen@cherryhillsvillage.com, 303-489-5051

Al Blum, District 3, ablum@cherryhillsvillage.com, 303-901-7441

Susan Maguire, District 4, smaguire@cherryhillsvillage.com, 303-717-5228

Dan Sheldon, District 5, dsheldon@cherryhillsvillage.com, 303-886-2838

Robert Eber, District 6, reber@cherryhillsvillage.com, 303-810-0914

3) **Start outreach to your friends and neighbors:** At this time, many residents don't even know about these plans. Reach out to those you know in the Village and explain your opposition to the plan. Ask them to also call or email city council members and attend the public meetings on the topic. Consider starting your own neighborhood text group to keep everyone up to date on the latest developments.