



THE COUNCIL
OF

THE CITY OF NEW YORK

GALE A. BREWER

COUNCIL MEMBER, 6TH DISTRICT, MANHATTAN

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IMMIGRATION

June 18, 2024

Daniel Mackay
Deputy Commissioner
State Historic Preservation Office
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Albany, NY 12238

Dear Deputy Commissioner Mackay:

I write to express my strong opposition to the proposed installation of 5G towers on the Upper West Side, including, but not limited to recently proposed sites: 1900 Broadway, 1886 Broadway and 1880 Broadway as well as sites recently approved by SHPO: 715 Columbus Avenue and 741 Columbus Avenue.

As a Council Member representing this community, I am deeply concerned about the potential negative impacts that these structures may have on our historic neighborhood. I previously expressed my concern in a letter dated January 23, 2023 to the Office of Technology and Innovation (Enclosed).

Historic districts such as the Upper West Side are characterized by unique streetscapes that reflect specific periods and styles of architecture. The installation of towering cellular infrastructure within these districts contradicts the fundamental purpose of preserving their historical integrity and beauty. The current sites outlined above are either in or adjacent to an historic eligible or designated historic district or property, and require further review.

It is imperative we address our community's concerns and explore all possible avenues to prevent the permanent installation of these unsightly and inappropriate towers. Our goal should always be to find a balance between the evolving needs of the city and the imperative of preserving the unique character of our neighborhoods. I urge SHPO to take immediate action and end all plans for installation on the Upper West Side.

Additionally, it is my understanding that these towers are intended to address gaps in the city's current 5G network, and while I certainly support expansion of wireless and cellular services to underserved communities, I have not seen any data to support this need in my district.

Please keep me informed of any updates or developments regarding this issue. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "gale A. Brewer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "g" and a distinct "A" and "B".

Gale A. Brewer

cc: Olivia Brazee, Coordinator, Technical Preservation Unit, State Historic Preservation Office
Matthew Fraser, Commissioner, NYC Office of Technology and Innovation, 2 Metro Tech
Center, Brooklyn, NY 11201
Sarah Carroll, Commissioner, Landmarks Preservation Commission, 1 Centre Street, New
York, NY 10007
Max Vandervliet, District Manager, Community Board 7, 250 W 87 Street, 2, New York,
NY 10024
Monica Blum, President, Lincoln Square BID, 1881 Broadway, #2R, New York, NY 10023

Enclosure

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COVID RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY

January 23, 2023

Matthew Fraser
Commissioner, NYC Office of Technology and Innovation
2 MetroTech Center, P1
Brooklyn, NY, 11201

Dear Commissioner Fraser:

I write to reiterate what I was told by the Administration some months ago: 5G antenna cell phone towers will not be installed on the Upper West Side. I would like for this information to be put in writing.

Just recently, I received a call from constituents who are upset that 5G towers are being installed on their street. It was my understanding that they would not be available on the Upper West Side.

I called to inquire about these towers months ago, and to share with your office that there would be outcry against them.

I am copying Community Boards 4 and 7. They may want to schedule hearings on the matter.

Thank you for your attention to this issue. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Gale A. Brewer

cc: Max Vandervliet, District Manager, Manhattan Community Board 7, 250 West 87th Street, New York, NY 10024
Jesse Bodine, District Manager, Manhattan Community Board 4, 424 W 33rd St Suite #580, New York, NY 10001