

## Pamela Ransier

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**From:** Kathleen Casteel <kcasteel2132@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2023 4:26 PM  
**To:** Permits  
**Subject:** cell tower  
**Attachments:** celltower.docx

9/20/2023

City of Walla

Development Services

Walla Walla, WA

Re: Conditional Use Permit for the construction of cellular tower

State Law requires the City of Walla Walla to develop a 20-year growth plan, a Comprehensive Plan for what the community would like to achieve in the future. Allowing the cell tower at 928 Sturm would conflict and not be consistent with many of the principal goals and policies of Walla Walla's Comprehensive Plan: Housing, Environment and Natural Resource Plan Update/June2018

A cell tower at 928 Sturm would be harmful to the riparian ecosystem, environment and animals. The proposed tower would be in a major flyway of waterfowl. Many of the waterfowl fly low as they approach Pioneer Park and Mill creek, two favorite stopping places, in spring and fall. Factors such as weather can force migrating birds lower and attract them to lights from cell towers. Migrating songbirds and bees, would be the first to disappear in our neighborhood, both species are important for our ecosystem for insect control and as pollinators'. They seem to be drawn to the light, a key attractant for night migrating songbirds. During times of fog or low cloud ceiling the light from the towers refracts off water molecules in the air creating a large illuminated "halo" around the tower. This halo attracts passing birds, they become disoriented and are reluctant to leave.

*"RF radiation, even at low levels, caused harm in every animal model studied especially bees and birds. They depend on the earth's magnetic fields for orientation, migration, food-finding abilities, mating, nest and den building, territorial maintenance and defense."* **B. Blake Levit**, medical and science journalist, author of two books on electromagnetic fields.

The city of Walla Walla stated in their 20 year plan (Ordinance Plan 2021-2023) to provide more housing for middle and lower income residents. There are now lots available south of the church property, that address our housing shortage, unfortunately, due to cell tower plans, not one lot has sold. The plans have already displaced two homeowners who chose to move due to their concerns. Many residents have chosen this neighborhood to retire and many others to raise their families and do not have the means to pick up and move. It is a proven fact that having a cell tower in your neighborhood lowers your home value by 15-20%. It is unjust to allow an entity that does not live here to damage our property values, neighborhood, ecosystem and wildlife. Fire Hazard, light and sound pollution will be escalated, this does not belong in a residential area.

The cell tower has no social, or financial benefit to our neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Casteel Bassett

Resident, 912 Sturm Ave.