

Pamela Ransier

From: Carlie Douglas <carlosmucho8792@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2023 10:35 AM
To: Permits
Subject: CUP-22-0002 HE Public Comment

To whom it may concern:

My name is Carlie Douglas. I am writing in regards to the proposed cell tower at 928 Sturm Ave, and the havoc it will wreak not only on the inhabitants of the neighborhood, but the unmentioned trickle-down effect it will have on other members of the community.

This is the neighborhood I grew up in, and this cell tower has no place in it. It definitely does not have a place over the daycare I used to attend with my baby brother, the playground we used to play on every single afternoon, the large unadulterated fields the teachers would take us down to for Red Rover, and other fun activities. It does not belong right next to the creek we used to go to and play in on the weekends, catching bugs and running down the large open hills behind the church; where when you are quiet you can see deer, hear beautiful birds sing, and watch water fowl play. It is outrageous to me that this oasis might be replaced with the roar of generators, fake plastic tree leaves falling, littering the landscape and polluting the creek, not to mention the risk of children being harmed while running around under a massive metal tower with a huge fence and running heavy equipment. The tower will leave this stunning area I love destroyed and barren.

In 2005 I went back to the old neighborhood to apply for a job at the Inn at Blackberry Creek. Over the last 18 years the owners, Barbara and Everett Knudson have become family. This job has allowed me to become a homeowner in our beautiful city, all while making it possible for me to help take care of my grandparents who purchased their first home in Walla Walla in the 1950s. This cell tower is the deciding factor in the Inn going out of business and me losing not just a job, but my livelihood and ability to take care of my family.

The City and the Church started this process three years ago, never disclosing to the people in the community, let alone the people that will have to live right next to this eye sore, that this plan was in effect. Nobody was given a choice, a chance to oppose or be heard, or even to ask for more information. Nor did it leave room for the City or the Church to learn more about what they might be imposing on the community so they could make a more educated decision in this matter.

It is the job of the City Council to protect our town and the people who live here. By making these uneducated decisions about this cell tower, they are failing at this.

While everybody on the City Council, and everyone at Blue Mountain Community Church gets to continue with their day to day, their lives uninterrupted... While they get to go home and look out at their children safely running around, their well manicured lawns, and sleep peacefully through the night, the people of this neighborhood will have to keep their children close, look out their windows and see a monstrosity of mangled metal, and hideous plastic "pine" leaves, will be kept up by the humming of generators and the hiss of radio frequencies; essentially pushing them from their homes, that some people have lived in for over 30 years.

The covert way all of this was handled, during a worldwide pandemic, makes me feel the City and Church were either led blindly, or know the consequences and risks of this tower, and they just don't care, because it won't affect them... for now. Until the next tower is put in their backyard because of a code change, that never should have happened.

I ask you, wholeheartedly, please consider what is at stake if we allow this to move forward. This is just the first neighborhood that will be devastated by one of these towers. Our town is so beautiful. Help us save it!

Carlie Douglas