

February 16, 2009 - For Immediate Release

PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE PROLIFERATION OF RESIDENTIAL CELL TOWERS

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Coalition of Southern California Communities Demands Moratorium on New Cell Phone Towers

Group Blasts T-Mobile on Permit Violations, Safety & Deceptive Practices

Rallies to Support Windsor Hills/View Park as they take on T-Mobile before the L.A. County Planning Commission

When: Wednesday, February 18, 8:00 AM- Press Conference

Where: L.A. County Hall of Records, Open Space/Concourse Area on S.E. corner of Hill St. and W. Temple St.) L.A. 900

Hearing on Controversial Los Angeles T-Mobile Cell Facility Case at 9:00 AM

Hall of Records, Room 150, 320 W. Temple Street, Los Angeles

A coalition of Southern California Communities (REACT – Residents Engaged Against Cell Towers) is demanding a moratorium on new cell phone facility construction in Los Angeles County. “We have found patterns of abuse of the permitting process, routine violations of zoning and building codes, and deceptive arguments used by cell phone providers to justify inappropriate and unnecessary placements of cell facilities. This makes a moratorium urgent to allow time to study the issue,” say REACT organizers. “We need policies for approval of cell facilities to ensure that any placement is truly necessary to fill a gap in service and will be the least intrusive for the community. Cell towers are popping up all over without any real sensible planning. We don’t need facilities next to homes destroying our views, lowering property values or putting residents at undue risk to provide redundant service. We need better deployment of better technology.”

BACKGROUND:

Citizens' basic rights and local authority have been stripped by federal law and T-Mobile, in particular, is taking full advantage and not playing fair. Zoning code violations, lack of aesthetics and design consideration, potential adverse health and safety impacts and loss of property value (confirmed by peer-reviewed research) are issues that more communities are facing every day. As one Glendale city councilman remarked, "This is the beginning of an assault on residential neighborhoods."

T-Mobile is moving aggressively into residential neighborhoods to market new wireless services residents now receive via cable or other wired infrastructure. And it seems they will do whatever it takes to further their expansion at residents' expense. These have included claims for need of better 911 service, despite the fact that even a cell phone without a service carrier will connect to any signal of any carrier as a priority call when 911 is dialed. T-Mobile fails to mention that landlines are more reliable in emergencies or that the wireless industry has successfully lobbied to overturn the FCC requirement to provide even 8 hours of emergency battery backup.

REACT calls on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and all local governments to follow the lead of the City of Glendale and **Enact an Urgency Moratorium** to allow time to study the issue and revise and adopt ordinances to provide the maximum protection for citizens and residential neighborhoods allowed under state and federal law.

We Ask Our Elected Officials To Join Us by:

- Condemning Section 704 of the 1996 Federal Communications Act, which preempts local governments from fully considering the health and environmental effects of wireless cell facilities.
- Calling for the amendment of the portion of the California Public Utilities Code which allows wireless telecom carriers to ignore local zoning codes and construct along public rights-of-way.

We Ask Our State and Local Agencies to Take Immediate Steps to Protect Citizens and Investigate the Problems Reported by Residents.

We are FOR smarter deployment of better technology. We are FOR educating the public so citizens can choose what is best for them based on all the facts.

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