



T-Mobile West Corporation
1855 Gateway Boulevard, Suite 900
Concord, CA 94520

June 16, 2010

Via express delivery and facsimile: (415) 558-6409

Ron Miguel, President
Christina Olague, Vice-President
Michael J. Antonini, Commissioner
Gweneth Borden, Commissioner
William L. Lee, Commissioner
Kathrin Moore, Commissioner
Hisashi Sugaya, Commissioner
c/o Linda Avery, Commission Secretary
San Francisco Planning Department
1660 Mission Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94103

**Re: Application for T-Mobile Wireless Facility at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
Case 2009.0562C; T-Mobile Site SF43634C
3281 16th Street, San Francisco**

Dear Commissioners:

As you know, this application to place a wireless telecommunications facility in the steeple of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church at 3281 16th Street has faced vigorous opposition. To promote harmonious relations and engender community goodwill, T-Mobile has elected to voluntarily withdraw its application.

Many factors make this a difficult decision for T-Mobile. The Church is categorized as a "Priority One" or preferred location for a cell site under Section 8.1 of San Francisco's Wireless Telecommunications Guidelines. T-Mobile has proven that the neighborhood needs improved cellular service due to an identifiable gap in coverage. T-Mobile and the Church have also reached out to the community through efforts such as meeting formally with community members in November 2009 and meeting informally with opponents of the site in May 2010 to answer their questions and address concerns. T-Mobile is particularly disappointed that will be unable to continue its existing lease with the Church, which recognized early on that a well-designed cell site benefits the community by improving communication, providing access to new technology, and increasing public safety.

Cellular service has become a critical lifeline to parents and children in San Francisco, including the vigorous opponents of this site. A robust wireless network is essential to this city's communication infrastructure and its emergency preparedness. Ultimately, we can articulate no better response than the attached letter from the St. Matthew's Church Council, which includes parents of children attending the Church's in-building preschool.

Without a doubt, the primary reason for community opposition is concern about health effects. The proposed site is in full compliance with federal safety regulations, so health concerns cannot be a legal or rational basis for denying T-Mobile's permit application. More importantly to T-Mobile and the Church, this site has been reviewed by the city's own Department of Public Health, and the amount of radio frequency exposure to children in the vicinity would be a minute fraction of the levels deemed safe by the F.C.C.

We view this as a case of unfounded fear overshadowing thoughtful planning, science and reason. This withdrawal will not eliminate the need for improving wireless coverage in the area. To fulfill its federal mandate and its commitment to customers, T-Mobile must re-apply with one or several alternative sites. We trust that the Commissioners and community will favorably consider the alternatives in light of T-Mobile's voluntary withdrawal of this application.

Sincerely,



Joni Norman
Senior Development Manager

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

April 17, 2010

ELCA

Dear Beth Saiki and CDS Parents,

Thank you for your presentation to our Church Council on April 11, 2010. We do appreciate your concerns regarding the planned T-Mobile installation in our church steeple. We have discussed your presentation, as well as a previous presentation led by Mr. Rob Geller on January 3, 2010.

At this time the St. Matthew's Church Council has unanimously decided to allow the proposed T-Mobile expansion to proceed as originally discussed. The reasons for our decision have little to do with the opportunity to obtain additional revenue for the Church: T-Mobile has provided sufficient information regarding potential hazards of cellular communications, and the appropriate community meetings have been advertised and attended by all interested parties to officially discuss their concerns. Finally, so long as research remains inconclusive on the subject of potential hazards, we cannot stop progress and commerce. Increasing cell phone usage in the Mission and the Castro has prompted the need to improve reception in the neighborhood. Finally, in the event of a catastrophe or natural disaster, cellular communications are of paramount importance for public and community safety.

Based on the above due process, T-Mobile has started the formal permit process to gain the proper permits for the expansion to occur. At this point, St. Matthew's is awaiting direction from T-Mobile and the appropriate regulatory authorities, including the City and County of San Francisco.

While we understand your concerns and appreciate your efforts, it is apparent from our meeting on April 11 that there was a lack of sufficient and timely communication within the CDS community. The T-Mobile expansion project was initiated in the spring of 2009 after we were contacted by T-Mobile. A community meeting was held on November 19, 2009, and a presentation was made to the Church Council by Mr. Rob Geller, who represented himself and some concerned neighbors. Therefore, it is our belief that ample opportunity

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was given for the presentation and consideration of concerns and that the time has now passed to view those concerns.

St. Matthew's has proceeded according to established protocols as set forth by both T-Mobile and the City and County of San Francisco.

It is our suggestion that concerned CDS parents schedule a meeting with T-Mobile representative Joe Camicia, who is the designated contact. You can reach him at 415-722-1183 or CamiciaConsultant@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

William H. Bremer, MD
President, Church Council

Ingrid Rudolph-Angelich, Ph.D.
Secretary, Church Council