

Ref: 2008-M16.2

February 1, 2008

The Honourable Jim Prentice
Minister of Industry
C.D. Howe Building
235 Queen Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0H5

Sir:

City Council on January 29 and 30, 2008, adopted, without amendment, the following Motion:

M16.2 Proposed Telecommunication Tower: 140 Guildwood Parkway
Moved by Councillor Ainslie, seconded by Councillor Moscoe

SUMMARY:

Bell Mobility Inc. has proposed to install a 35-metre (115 ft.) cellular telecommunication tower on the property known as 140 Guildwood Parkway.

The site is occupied by the Guildwood Presbyterian Church which has been at the centre of the Guildwood Community since 1964. The property sits at the foot of the hill as one travels into the Guildwood Village. This location, which serves as the community hub, is not an appropriate location to install a 35-metre (115 ft.) cellular telecommunication tower.

As municipalities do not have jurisdiction over cellular telecommunication towers, Industry Canada, the Federal Government department which governs and provides approvals enabling cellular carriers to install such towers, views municipalities as the land use authority and takes into consideration their objections when considering the approval of, or viability of, a proposed site.

As there is a failure to reach an agreement between the proponents of the tower and the residents of the community, it is proposed that Industry Canada not pass approval for this particular site and request that Bell Mobility Inc. continue to search for alternative options, specifically requesting that Bell Mobility Inc. visit the prospect of utilizing existing tower facilities within the service needs area.

The installation of cellular telecommunication towers within the City of Toronto and the City's authority on proposed sites has been a continuing concern for City Council. As a City protocol is in the process of being finalized, an impasse motion at this time is the only means we possess as a land use authority to object to a particular site location.

On December 4, 2007, as per my request, Bell Mobility Inc. held a public consultation forum to introduce their proposal to residents. A majority of the residents did not support the site location and have provided me with a petition objecting to the proposed site.

The proposed site location at 140 Guildwood Parkway has reached an impasse as the site is not an appropriate location to install a 35-metre (115 ft.) telecommunication tower and associated equipment HOVAC shelter.

A City Council decision is required during this session, as the proponent will be filing documentation with Industry Canada prior to the next meeting of Council.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no financial impact.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the City of Toronto object to the installation of a Bell Mobility cellular telecommunication tower at the particular site of 140 Guildwood Parkway.
2. That the City Clerk be directed to forward to Industry Canada, the City of Toronto's objection towards this particular site location.

Council considered the following:

- Petition (undated) containing the signatures of approximately 785 individuals on the proposed installation of a Bell Mobility telecommunication tower, with attached communications from Mr. John Harris, President, Guildwood Village Community Association, Karina Gelo, on behalf of the Guildwood No Tower Group, and Roza Mangos, submitted by Councillor Paul Ainslie, Ward 43, Scarborough East (M16.2.1), which is on file in the City Clerk's Office.

Yours truly,



for City Clerk

M. Toft/cd

- c. Councillor Paul Ainslie, Ward 43, Scarborough East ✓
John Harris, President, Guildwood Village Community Association
Karina Gelo, Guildwood No Tower Group
Roza Mangos