



Planning and Inspections

MAYOR

Oscar Leeser

July 20, 2021

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District 7

Henry Rivera

District 8

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CITY MANAGER

Tommy Gonzalez

To: Mayor and City Council Representatives,

The Planning Division recently has received a new petition with 25 signatures in opposition to the special permit request. City Planning Commission received a petition with 58 signatures. Total number of signatures is 83.

Additionally, the Planning Division recently received 5 letters via email in opposition to the request from individuals (3) who had previously submitted them at the time of the CPC meeting. This is in addition to the 13 correspondences received at the time of the CPC meeting. This brings the total of opposition emails to 18.

Also, The Planning Division has received a letter via email in support of the request. No correspondence was received at the time of CPC in support of the special permit request.

All correspondence received to date are attached to this memo.

Regards,
Andrew Salloum
Senior Planner

Philip F. Etiwe, Director

Planning and Inspections Department | 801 Texas Ave. | El Paso, TX 79901

Office: (915) 212-0104 | FAX: (915) 212-0084



DELIVERING **EXCEPTIONAL** SERVICES

Salloum, Andrew M.

From: Carlos Garza <cgarza@elp.rr.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 18, 2021 12:25 PM
To: District #1; District #2; District #3; District #4; District #5; District #6; District #7; District #8; Mayor
Cc: Salloum, Andrew M.
Subject: Cell Tower 5901 Upper Valley Road Opposition
Attachments: Signed Opposition Forms Wireless Tower.pdf; Signed Opposition Form Wireless Tower Upper Valley Part II.PDF; Signed Opposition Forms Wireless Tower Part III.pdf; Signed Opposition Forms Wireless Tower Part IV.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

CASE #PZST21-00004

Carlos & Beatrice Garza
709 Scott Ln.
El Paso, Texas 79932

Position – Resident

I, Carlos Garza and my wife Beatrice Garza both reside at the address above. Most of us have gone through this time of COVID-19. Some of us are dealing with losses that may or may have not had to do with COVID. Whether it had been a loss of loved ones or economic losses, many of us are still dealing with these. Now this neighborhood is having to deal with this issue of a cell tower in the neighborhood just adds on top of everything that we are already experiencing. This neighborhood has dealt with this issue since 2018 and again in April 2021 and now currently. We ask that you DENY this permit. You have a neighborhood that cares about each other. This church seems to not care for this neighborhood and shows it by its actions. This comes to no surprise since none of the members of this church (5901 Upper Valley Rd.) reside in this neighborhood.

After being notified recently of the Special Permit being considered again after its defeat back in 2018 and at the planning committee, I have spoken to our neighbors on Scott Ln. and Al Smith Ln. The ones that I have spoken with are opposed to this wireless tower. My wife and I are also opposed to this tower.

These big cell tower companies are moving in on churches in need of money, and thus, into neighborhoods because they are here to make a profit.

We are hoping to maintain the beautiful view and peacefulness that this neighborhood offers our elderly and our children. This is why many of us chose this area. We would like to remain in a healthy environment where they can enjoy and grow up in. If a cell tower is placed in this neighborhood, our elderly and our children will have no choice and the neighborhood will have nothing to gain and have all of this to lose and much more.

Below are some points to ponder on our opposition to this Special Permit:

- Lack of ethics on the part of Verizon. This looks like the opportunity for the corporation to submit for the Special Permit with little to no chance of rebuttal. When all this started in March 2021, the pandemic caused many restrictions. It made it very difficult for the neighbors to convene and meet to fight this battle. With conscience neighbors wanting to follow the CDC and city/county guidelines, Verizon is using the path of least resistance.
- The only reason that Verizon is insisting on this location is because they have the church willing to have them place this eyesore on their property. Verizon would have had to look for another location otherwise. They have not insisted on the first location they had here on Upper Valley, but they keep on insisting on this location

- Verizon should place their tower at a commercial area. There are plenty of open areas that are available in the Upper Valley. Something like this would never even be considered in the Country Club area.
- The church in question (Rey De Reyes Evangelical Free Church), does not even portray a devout Christian church. I have had plenty of Jehovah Witness members come to witness to me here at my home. I have yet to have any member of the Rey De Reyes congregation come witness to me for my salvation. This church is not a good neighbor. It seems to me that their god is the U.S. dollar.
- In no way is this tower going to benefit the neighborhood. The only ones benefitting from this tower are Verizon and the church. The ones paying for the price are the people in the neighborhood.

Due to the late notice and several familial events, we just barely started canvassing our neighborhood. We have 83 signatures as of this writing. More of these opposition forms will be coming in as we canvass the neighborhood.

Here are some questions that we have:

- How many more times does Verizon have to hear from us that this tower is not welcomed in our neighborhood?
- What are some other locations that Verizon is willing to place this tower at other than in our neighborhood?

I apologize for the number of forms with minimal signatures, but I was trying to avoid multiple contact with neighbors due to COVID concerns.

We appreciate your attention to this matter.

Regards,
Carlos & Beatrice Garza










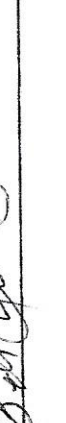
Opposition Against the Construction of Cell Phone Tower

We, the undersigned, oppose the granting of a special permit by the City Plan Commission for the purpose of constructing a cell phone tower on 5901 Upper Valley Road El Paso, TX 79932.

Name	Address	Signature	Rec. Letter
SANTIAGO LUSAN	720 Scott	<i>[Signature]</i>	7-15-21
Miguel Escoto	724 Scott	<i>[Signature]</i>	7-15-21
HERNANDEZ, DANIEL	732 SCOTT	<i>[Signature]</i>	7-15-21
Laura Payne	728 Scott	<i>[Signature]</i>	7-15-21
Marina Payne	728 Scott	<i>[Signature]</i>	7-15-21
CeCe Brown	719 Scott	<i>[Signature]</i>	7-15-21
Julio Velasquez	748 Scott	<i>[Signature]</i>	7-15-21
SUSAN Velasquez	748 Scott	<i>[Signature]</i>	7-15-21
Joe Pro	733 Scott	<i>[Signature]</i>	7-15-21
Norma Illusa	733 Scott	<i>[Signature]</i>	7-15-21
Shirley Marshall	708 Scott	<i>[Signature]</i>	7-15-21
<i>[Signature]</i>	712 SCOTT	<i>[Signature]</i>	7-15-21



Opposition Against the Construction of Cell Phone Tower

We, the undersigned, oppose the granting of a special permit by the City Plan Commission for the purpose of constructing a cell phone tower on 5901 Upper Valley Road El Paso, TX 79932.

Name	Address	Signature	Rec. Letter
Marc Hilde	741 Villa Antigua CT		✓
ANA MARIA HOWE	741 Villa Antigua Ct.		✓
Norm Badillo	744 Villa Antigua Ct		✓
Deanna Lucero	729 Villa Antigua Ct.		✓
Ray Travençolo	704 Villa Antigua CT		✓
William S. JACOBS	717 Villa Antigua CT		
Aracely Britton	716 Villa Antigua		
Aerle Olivas	729 Villa Antigua		
Angel Madrid	708 Villa Antigua		
William Galvin	700 Villa Antigua		

Opposition Against the Construction of Cell Phone Tower

We, the undersigned, oppose the granting of a special permit by the City Plan Commission for the purpose of constructing a cell phone tower on 5901 Upper Valley Road El Paso, TX 79932.

Name	Address	79932	Signature	Rec. Letter
Kyle D. Weeks	704 Scott Ln			
Patricia Moreno	704 Scott			
email	ldweeks12@yahoo.com			
(C)	915 526 2733			

Opposition Against the Construction of Cell Phone Tower

We, the undersigned, oppose the granting of a special permit by the City Plan Commission for the purpose of constructing a cell phone tower on 5901 Upper Valley Road El Paso, TX 79932.

Name	Address	Signature	Rec. Letter
Esiquio Tapujillo	729 Al Smith	<i>Esiquio Tapujillo</i>	
MARTA Tapujillo	729 Al Smith	<i>Marta Tapujillo</i>	

Salloum, Andrew M.

From: Terry Bustamante <Terry.Bustamante@usi.com>
Sent: Monday, July 19, 2021 9:40 AM
To: District #8
Cc: Salloum, Andrew M.
Subject: FW: Opposition to proposed cell tower construction at Rey del Reyes church, PZST21-00004

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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City of El Paso Automated System Message | EMAIL SENDER UNVERIFIED:

The email from [Terry Bustamante](#), sent by Terry.Bustamante@usi.com, cannot be verified as authentic. Please take caution, do not click on any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. If you believe this to be a phish use the 'Phish Alert' button or forward to SpamReport@elpasotexas.gov.

-

From: Terry Bustamante
Sent: Monday, July 19, 2021 9:34 AM
To: mayor@elpasotexas.gov
Cc: District #1 <District#1@elpasotexas.gov>; District2elpasotexas.gov, <District3@elpasotexas.gov>
Subject: Re: Opposition to proposed cell tower construction at Rey del Reyes church, PZST21-00004

7/19/21

Good morning Honorable Mayor and city council.

We are emailing you with respects to the above captioned item #25 on your agenda for July 20, 2021. Rey Del Reyes Church located in the Upper Valley neighborhood is once again attempting to install a cell tower on their property. There are no issues with cell phone service out here, this church is **NOT** part of our neighborhood. They do not interact in our community and the congregation does not live in our area. They are only interested in the revenue that they will receive from Verizon. We have collected numerous signatures from our community opposing this cell tower. We are opposed to this cell tower for several reasons. This cell tower will definitely be an eyesore; 40 feet in height; towering over all our homes. This cell tower would distort the neighbors view of the beautiful Franklin Mountains. Upper Valley neighbors pay the third highest property taxes in El Paso. We moved to this area to get away from the hustle and bustle of living in the city; we want the Upper Valley to remain for generations to come as a beautiful peaceful area. If the cell tower proposition passes our property values would go down and the City of El Paso would lose tax revenue. But the most important reason is this cell tower would cause health issues for our children, grandchildren, adults, pregnant women and our elderly.

Verizon is taking the path of least resistance seeing that churches are hurting for money due to this pandemic. There are PLENTY of commercial areas where they can place their cell tower; we DO NOT want this in the middle of our beautiful neighborhood. We beg and plead and pray that you vote against this cell tower.

Respectfully submitted,

Jimmy & Terry Bustamante

713 Scott Lane
El Paso, TX 79932

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Salloum, Andrew M.

From: rosa romero <rosamromero@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 18, 2021 12:34 PM
To: Salloum, Andrew M.
Subject: 40' wireless tower on 5901 Upper Valley road I am in opposition of the tower.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Mr. Salloum,

I am writing to let you know that I am in opposition of a 40' wireless tower being placed right next to my home. I reside at 704 Al Smith. I am a doctor and live right behind the church that wants to place the tower. I have a minor child and am very concerned about the radiation that the tower will emit and the cancerous implications it can cause. It will Bring the property vales down and when I want to sell my property no one will want to buy it with an awful tower hindering the view.

The church owner or church people do not live there .So they don't care what happens to the people who live in the neighborhood they just want to get the money that the tower will provide them on a monthly basis. They don't care about the health implications it will cause. They are just there for a short while one day a week on Sunday ,so they don't care. They the owner has probably not even told the congregation what their plans are. I am in opposition of this monstrous eyesore in the neighborhood.

On another note these Church people owners have made a soccer area. They are very noisy and stay up till 11pm and sometimes past on a week day. People in the neighborhood work for a living and they get up early to get to their jobs and this constant noise is a big nuances . The church has cars parked and grown men hanging around drinking alcohol and shouting at night. It's become a very dangerous situation for the neighbors. These people stay past the normal hours. This situation can become very dangerous. when you have drunk men . The church people don't care because they don't live there and they don't have to put up with this on a weekly basis. I can hear all the noise .They are right in my caldesac shouting and saying obsenites and using bad language. I have a minor child hearing this from the so called church people. They are not good neighbors. On Sundays they are also very noisy with their services they open their doors and all the noise comes out.

The church has made an addition to the original building and added more buildings and extended the fence to the end of the property on 700 Al Smith. Does this property all belong to them? They did not have all this property When I moved in and had my house built.

I am very much opposed to a 40 foot tower in my neighborhood and having grown drunk men hanging around in the dark in shouting and drinking alcohol in the parking area. This was a very safe quiet neighborhood until the church started. I am not he only neighbor that has these complaints.

Rosa M. Romero D.D.S.

Salloum, Andrew M.

From: Brigitte Ballou <brigitte1276@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 9:21 AM
To: Salloum, Andrew M.; Carlos Garza
Subject: Fwd: Rey de Reyes Cellular Tower

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good morning Sir,

I am again coming to you in reference to an appeal to the previous email I sent you on April 6th of this year. The Rey de Reyes Church (5901 Upper Valley) permit for the wireless service was denied and they have appealed. This has been an ongoing and long battle since 2018 and unfortunately continues. The residents in the area are against this wireless placement, however the church continues. I am a very concerned resident who resides adjacent to the church. I reside at 700 Al Smith Ln. I am writing this email to express my continued opposition of this wireless placement and pray that this harassment will eventually cease.

I can be reached at this email or my cellular telephone number (915) 253-3911

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Brigitte Ballou** <brigitte1276@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Apr 6, 2021 at 9:42 AM
Subject: Rey de Reyes Cellular Tower
To: <SalloumAM@elpasotexas.gov>, <District1@elpasotexas.gov>, <cgarza@elp.rr.com>

To whom it may concern,

I am the owner of 700 Al Smith, the property adjacent to the Rey de Reyes Church requesting the special permit to allow placement of a wireless service facility (5901 Upper Valley). I am completely against the special permit being allowed and am concerned for many reasons that this be allowed. I have signed the petition in opposition against the construction of the cell phone tower. I can be reached at this email or my cellular telephone number (915) 243-3911.

Thank you,

Brigitte Ballou

Salloum, Andrew M.

From: Rita Robles <ritaroblescs@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 19, 2021 2:24 PM
To: Salloum, Andrew M.
Subject: Case #PZST21-00004, Item 25 on council meeting agenda

July 19, 2021

Re: Case #PZST21-00004, Item 25 on council meeting agenda

Mr. Salloum,

I am very disappointed to have to write to you yet again about my opposition to the Verizon cell phone tower proposed for the Rey Del Reyes church on Upper Valley Road.

It is extremely disconcerting to have this issue arise over and over again, as if the neighborhood affected will somehow change its mind or be worn down. I assure you, regardless of tomorrow's outcome, none of us living in the affected neighborhood will stop fighting the imposition of the cell tower.

This is an established residential neighborhood. Cell phone towers should not be allowed in residential neighborhoods or public properties such as parks or libraries.

Verizon is a multi-billion dollar company and is capable of affording its own space on a property already designated for commercial space. There are plenty of other choices at Upper Valley and Artcraft (2), Upper Valley and Country Club, Doniphan and Country Club, Gomez and Westside Drive, just to name a few. There is also plenty of sprawling space available on the New Mexico side of Country Club, where no residential space will be affected. Verizon doesn't wish to spend more money, so it will instead reach into our neighborhood's pockets by lowering our home values.

Lower home values result in lower tax revenues for the city.

A doctor and two nurses in the neighborhood expressed health concerns for the proposed tower. Studies done in Germany and Israel point to an increased risk of cancer in the long term. None of us wish to be the test subjects for cancer potential.

We know the planning commission nor the city council wish to address these constituent health concerns. Who does then? Heaven forbid any one of my very fine neighbors contracts cancer, but if it happens, who do we go to then? Who takes responsibility for the health care costs then? We are positive Verizon cares only about a dollar amidst its billions. We would be incredibly disappointed to discover the city council members also only care about Verizon's dollars as well.

The council is tasked with being representative of its population. The entire neighborhood says no in the most urgent and vocal way possible. Will you not hear us?

Rita Robles
716 Al Smith
(915) 471-4368

Mr. Salloum,

My name is Chris Robles. I reside at 716 Al Smith in the affected subdivision of the proposed cell tower at the Rey de Reyes church. Regarding Special Permit PZST21-00004, I am strongly opposed to the special permit request by this church, Verizon and Romero and Associates LLC. I was opposed three years ago when the first special permit was granted by the Planning Commission and I spoke during the public portion of the city council meeting that voted down the measure. I intend to speak tomorrow at the Planning Commission meeting as well. Though the cell tower design has changed, it is still an eye-soar, will block our view of the mountains and only benefits the church.

- The church is the only one that benefits monetarily from this situation. They will be making money every month for the use of their land for this tower. It's disappointing that they have never reached out to us yet are well-aware that the neighborhood opposes this monstrosity. Their members do not live in our neighborhood so they don't have to see this every day.

-There are several suitable locations in this area in commercial zoned properties, however, Verizon/Romero and Associates LLC, would have to spend more money to place a tower in these locations. It is as simple as that. They will pay the church a fraction of the cost.

- There is a probable loss of property value as most people do not want to live next to a cell phone tower. If we sell our homes the view of the tower at the end of the street would make it much more difficult. We may consider hiring attorneys and asking for lower property taxes based on this if it is approved.

- The new design is just as bad as the original design, you can't cover up what it is. A cell tower is a cell tower. Photos of these "disguised" cell-towers posted on the internet are laughable.

- Health-care professionals who live in our neighborhood have expressed health concerns regarding radiation coming from this tower. Studies in other countries have shown the radiation can affect soft tissue. Just because there aren't the same studies done here in the US means we have to bury our heads.

I look forward to speaking with you tomorrow.

Salloum, Andrew M.

From: David Brown <david.brown@ticketmaster.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 4:56 PM
To: District #1; Mayor; Salloum, Andrew M.
Subject: Cell Tower Upper Valley Road - Please approve!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello!

Below is a message I came across on the Next Door App. I know cell towers are hardly ever welcomed with open arms, especially in residential neighborhoods. That being said, we really DO need better mobile service in that area. I live on River Park Place 79932 and using mobile service is low to none.

I have to go outside to talk to clients when they call for support. I'm the local IT support for all Ticketmaster venues in El Paso which requires me to be available in the evenings when most events are taking place. This includes County Coliseum, Plaza Theater, Abraham Chavez, Judson Williams, Sun Bowl Stadium, Don Haskins, etc. We also have a small Organic Backyard Farm (www.BlessedOrganicsLLC.com) and it's always hard to speak to customers.

Just wanted to share a couple of business related examples of why we need this. **Please allow our neighborhood to have better mobile reception.**


This is what I read from Next door APP. I know Mr. Carlos is against this tower and pushing to have this turned down again but the lack of adequate mobile reception really does negatively affect our well-being in so many ways.

Cell Tower Upper Valley Road. Neighbors, Sending this again with more email addresses to add to your emails to all the city representatives. My name is Carlos Garza and I reside at 709 Scott Ln. Currently, there is a notice for a wireless tower proposal to be installed at the Rey de Reyes church on Upper Valley Road, which is in our subdivision. This battle has been previously fought in 2018, with a defeat for the proposed tower. It was turned down before by the El Paso Planning Committee then and again on April 2021. The wireless tower folks appealed it. Now they want to try again. This is why you may want to reach out to Peter Svarzbein, your representative at 915-212-1002 and/or District1@elpasotexas.gov. You may also want to contact Mayor Oscar Leeser's office to provide your opposition at mayor@elpasotexas.gov and/or 915-212-0021. Please contact the other representatives at: District2@elpasotexas.gov District3@elpasotexas.gov District4@elpasotexas.gov District5@elpasotexas.gov District6@elpasotexas.gov District7@elpasotexas.gov District8@elpasotexas.gov And Andrew Salloum at SalloumAM@elpasotexas.gov There is an urgency to have this done as this comes to the city representatives on 07/20/21. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please let your neighbors know. Carlos & Beatrice Garza

t/HANKS!

David Brown

Technology Support Services - West Texas & New Mexico

 Office: 915-521-2307
Mobile: 915-727-8918
El Paso TX, 79901

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