

**From:** [Ford Ladd](#)  
**To:** [Lia Niebauer](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Opposition to Verizon 5G Cell Towers scheduled for BAR hearing on May 6, 2020  
**Date:** Monday, May 4, 2020 5:43:00 PM

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Dear Ms. Niebauer,

Please forward the following opposition to Verizon's application to build 5G transmitters scheduled for hearing on May 6, 2020.

I own and reside at 621 S Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. I subscribe to Comcast and have plenty of cause for wanting a viable ISP alternative to Comcast. However, I must oppose the Verizon application to construct 5G Cell Transmitters on existing telephone poles in Old Town Alexandria on the following reasons:

1. The City must bury all utilities, and this proposal will ensure that cable, power and telephone lines remain above ground for a longer period of time. Above ground lines are not only unsightly, they have resulted in lost power and internet on multiple times. During winters, rain, ice and snow have caused above ground power lines to short and fall near my home and nearby transformers that have left my home without power for days at a time and require me to cut water into my home and drain pipe to prevent burst pipes from freezing and then move my two labs and me to locations that accept dogs with no reimbursement for expenses. Above ground Comcast cable lines leading to the pole connected to my home have deteriorated to a point that the 200 mbs internet service I pay for is reduce to less than 3 kbs when it rains for more than 6 years, and when lightning struck a pole in Old Town it caused a power surge over Comcast cable that, because Comcast failed to ground its cable into my home, destroyed all the cable and internet lines in my home and destroyed all attached TVs, Receivers, Office Printers and NAS, and much more. These damages could have been avoided if the City required Comcast and other utilities to bury its cables as in so many other jurisdictions and new construction areas.
2. 5G transmitters and antennas present unacceptable health risks to residents. There is ample evidence that demonstrates electromagnetic energy fields from our cell phones, high tower power lines, and other transmitters disrupt cellular division and cause cancer, just as there was evidence since the 1950s and early 1960s that smoking also caused cancer. Until these health risks are better known it is improper for the City to impose these health risks on its residents to save money on an alternate internet service provider and platform.
3. Replacing Cable with 5G Tower Internet Service presents significant costs and security concerns. If I understand correctly, the City has rejected Cable Bids to accept a proposal from Verizon to install and subsidize 5G Tower service, which means each home will need to buy new modems to connect their home networks to 5G transmitters which presents following unanswered questions about costs, upgrades, and security:
  - a. How much will residents have to pay to replace existing cable modems with 5G modems on the initial install and as changes in 5G Standards and transmission

protocols occur.

- b. Given that significant changes in 5G Standards and protocols are expected over the next 2 years, will Alexandria be locked into an outdated system that can't be upgraded or will require considerable expenditures by the City and its residents to conform to new standards.
- c. WiFi data transmission is less secure and more easily intercepted than data transmission by cable. Since many residents and businesses in Alexandria work with the USG on sensitive projects, we cannot have our only internet tied to less secure Wi-Fi signals.
- d. Finally, Verizon has not stated whether its 5G equipment may be made by Chinese Manufacturers that US Intelligence Agencies have declared to be a National Security Risk and there is pending legislation that will prevent US employees and contractors from using on government business. The Verizon Application, Website and SEC Filings do not state whether some or all of the 5G equipment will be made in China or by entities under Chinese control. However, the Verizon proposal to provide 5G service at subsidized cost to the City is commiserate with other 5G proposals backed by Huawei and other Chinese concerns in the EU, and carries all the same National Security concerns that will make it impossible for businesses and residents to work and reside in the City.

**For the above reasons, I ask the City to deny Verizon's application to install 5G Cell Transmitters.**

### **Ford C. Ladd**

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