

Kelly, Sherry

From: ellino@youthradio.org
Sent: Friday, September 08, 2006 11:50 AM
To: Kelly, Sherry; Wolf, Christopher; Rhoades, Mark; Anderson, Maxwell; McIntyre, Debi
Subject: ANTENNA INVASION IN SO. BERKELEY

To: Sherry M. Kelly, Acting City Clerk

Re:

1) 2721 Shattuck Avenue (Nextel) Appeal--ZAB Decision Use permit
#04-10000068

2) 2721 Shattuck Avenue (Verizon) Appeal ZAB Decision Use Permit
#05-10000033

From: Ellen McGovern/Ward Street Neighbors

Dear Ms. Kelly,

Thank you for your consideration of our request to delay the City Council hearing/s re: the above ZAB decision to give Developer Patrick Kennedy permits to invade South Berkeley with a Cell Phone INVASION of 18 Verizon and Nextel High Tech Antennas on the roof of the Shattuck Avenue Storage Building, which is roughly in the middle of a 360 degree radius of neighborhoods and shops, including the Berkeley Bowl.

From our conversations, I understand that you are not able to postpone that hearing, even though there has been no information forthcoming or process with the neighborhoods from the City, the companies or the Developer. We hope the Berkeley City Council will take the opportunity on September 26th to outright deny these outrageous requests to install a High Profit Antenna Farm in South Berkeley. If not, taxpayers and citizens deserve and demand a very public hearing. With the millions of dollars that's at issue here for the corporations and the Developer, it seems impossible for 18 CellPhone Antennas to be railroaded into the neighborhoods without a public hearing for the following reasons:

(please note: the reasons DO NOT include anything to do with possible health impacts of cell phone antenna radiation. we understand that is 1) not permissible under FCC regulation and 2) we have many other urgent and compelling reasons to deny these permits, including:)

1. The main basis for the Zoning Board's denial of the Le Conte Neighborhood appeal of the Nextel/Verizon/Patrick Kennedy requests for lucrative permits, was that "this building is not in a neighborhood." It's

unfortunate that some members of the ZAB were not fully familiar with all of the neighborhoods that surround 2721 Shattuck Avenue, including houses and apartment buildings and small businesses all around it. We are very much a neighborhood, in fact a few neighborhoods that have worked together for years to improve South Berkeley and help it thrive.

2. Real Estate agents have advised neighbors within the radius of the proposed cell phone penetration map (which is not currently complete or accurate or independant), that their houses will drastically lose value. Why should South Berkeley homes and neighborhoods lose value for a project that simply enriches a few?

3. A complete seismic assessment of 2721 Shattuck is necessary, before placing additional weight of this kind on the roof. What is the impact if the antennas fall?, do they fall on the street?, can the roof hold the significant additional weight, as well as people walking on the roof?.

4. It was evident in the ZAB hearings that some members were not fully briefed on the technology involved in these requests. It appeared that they were not provided enough information to be making this decision. Including the fact that they considered the building location only and there was no request for a pattern map of the coverage and radiation.

5. City Clerk's office said that the City Staff has completed its review, but to my knowledge they have not discussed this issue with neighbors. The ZAB staff also did not adequately include neighbors in their report. How is it that Staff had plenty of discussions with folks from Verizon and Nextel, but not Berkeley taxpayers and citizens?

6. The issue of "need" really 'needs' to be reviewed. I don't know anyone in Berkeley having significant problems with cell phone reception. The "need" for an endless number of companies to continue to 'penetrate' the airwaves, in this case, Verizon and Nextel, has not been proven. The ZAB decision accepted the corporate analysis offered by Verizon and Nextel, as fact. This is insufficient and truly independant studies are needed.

7. Since the new owner bought 2721 Shattuck the business has repeatedly broken Zoning Laws, on the books for the past 10 years. One example of many: is the removal of the off-street loading area inside the building. This was a major redesign, completed without going through the Design Review or Zoning Processes. Ward Street and its sidewalks are now often blocked with traffic and equipment. Neither City personnel nor the owner have addressed neighbors' complaints. Given this business's handling of 'simple technology', it is a risk to put

high technology under this management, which has turned its back on the neighbors concerns and has no history of handling a facility with 18--count 'em 18--Cell Phone Antennas.

Ms. Kelly, thank you so much for including this letter in the City Council members' packets and any other official material. I will be out of town for two weeks.

Sincerely,
Ellen McGovern
on behalf of the Ward Street Neighbors

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<http://mail2web.com/> .