

Resolution No. 2018-19.19

WHEREAS,

- The desire of wireless companies to market new wireless services has led to wireless infrastructure being deployed in residential neighborhoods and areas near schools in Palo Alto; and
- Serious concerns exist regarding wireless permits approved near schools without sufficient notification to school officials, staff, PTAs or parents; and
- An increasing number of public agencies at all levels are raising concerns about and taking action to protect against cell tower radiation, a sampling of which is included in Exhibit A; and
- There has been an active community discussion about the deployment of small cell networks in residential areas and near schools, including a Palo Alto City Council vote in April 2019 directing city staff to consider setbacks from homes and schools and return with an updated wireless ordinance as soon as possible and no later than a year; and
- The Palo Alto PTA Council voted overwhelmingly in May 2019 to advocate for “risk reduction policies” regarding cell tower setbacks from schools and other electromagnetic field related issues consistent with the 1994 California PTA resolution on electromagnetic fields; and
- A 4G/5G wireless tower has already been approved within 300 feet of Barron Park Elementary School, nearest to the classrooms housing pre-K and Kindergarten students; and
- There are pending applications to erect over 150 4G/5G wireless towers in Palo Alto, several of which are in close proximity to PAUSD schools, including sites already approved e.g. near Barron Park, Ohlone, and El Carmelo, and proposed sites next to Palo Alto High School and other schools; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

- That the Palo Alto Unified School District Board of Education (the “Board”) opposes the siting of future cellular facilities on or in close proximity to schools to ensure individuals, especially children, are protected from the potential negative effects associated with radiation exposure; and
- That the Board supports the City of Palo Alto (“CPA”) immediately establishing local municipal zoning setback rules of 1500 feet or more from an operating wireless transmitter and a school site; and

- That the Board requests that CPA provide timely notification to the District Superintendent and the Principal(s) of affected schools, when new cellular permit applications are filed within 1500 feet of a school; and
- That, in light of the failure to provide timely notification to school officials and the local school community, the Board requests that CPA takes appropriate action either to enable appeal of the approved tower site adjacent to Barron Park Elementary School or to request the applicant to cancel plans for the tower at that location and reject or delay consideration of other applications near school sites until appropriate regulations and approval criteria are in place.

Exhibit A

Summary of Recent Public Official and Agency Actions

- On December 3, 2018, U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal and Congresswoman Anna G. Eshoo co-authored a [letter](#) to FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr that requested the FCC and relevant health agencies provide them studies informing the FCC's 5G safety determination, and while they did receive a letter from the FCC on December 17, 2018, it had no mention of 5G safety testing.
- In [2000](#), the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District adopted a resolution opposing the siting of cellular facilities on or in close proximity to schools to ensure individuals, especially children, are protected from the potential health effects associated with exposures to extremely low frequency electromagnetic and radio-frequency radiation, and in [2009](#) reaffirmed this with a resolution requesting local jurisdictions to provide timely notification when new cellular permit applications are filed and to provide comment on the health risks from cumulative exposures.
- The full Parliament of the European Union has raised concerns about the exposure of children and young people to electromagnetic fields and continuing uncertainties about possible health risks; and therefore, adopted in [2009](#) a resolution encouraging 1) the establishment of setback criteria for wireless antennas, mobile phone masts and other electromagnetic emitting devices to be set within a specific distance from schools and health institutions, 2) stricter regulations and protections for residents and consumers, and 3) more reliable information be made available about the effects of exposure to electromagnetic fields to citizens in an effort to prevent a “proliferation of poorly positioned masts and transmitters.”
- Many cities internationally [have taken action](#) to restrict cell towers near homes and schools, including the California cities of [Petaluma](#), [San Anselmo](#), [Fairfax](#), [Hillsborough](#), [Piedmont](#), [Rancho Palos Verdes](#), [Mill Valley](#), and [Ripon](#).