



**BOROUGH OF STATEN ISLAND  
COMMUNITY BOARD #3**

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**Health & Human Services Committee  
Public Hearing Report**

**DATE:** May 2, 2023

**TIME:** 7:00PM

**IN PERSON:** No

**VIRTUAL:** Yes

**SPEAKER:** Yes

**Committee Members Present**

Frank Morano, Chairman of the Board  
Diane Peruggia, Chair, Health & Human Services  
Vincent Bonomi  
Patricia Conway  
Harold Kozak  
Verna Lauria  
Dennis McKeon

**Committee Members Absent**

Carmine Gualtieri  
Michael Pinto

**Staff**

Charlene Wagner, *District Manager*  
Stacey Wertheim, *Community Coordinator*  
Susan LaForgia, *Community Coordinator*

**Guests**

Anthony Reinhart, Rep., Senator Andrew Lanza  
Odette Wilkens, President and General Counsel, Wired Broadband, Inc  
Theodora Scarato, Executive Director, Environmental Health Trust  
Carol Donovan, Pres. Richmondtown-Clarke Avenue Civic  
Jill McManus, New Yorkers 4 Wired Tech

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**Public Contact** – No Speakers

## **Agenda**

**Odette Wilkens, President and General Counsel of Wired Broadband, Inc., and Theodora Scarato, Executive Director of Environmental HealthTrust**, spoke about the planned installation of 77 Link5G kiosks/cell towers in the Community Board 3 district, particularly the issues and risks associated with them.

The New York City Office of Telecommunication and Innovation (OTI) has contracted CityBridge to install Link5G Cell Towers throughout NYC. Each tower/kiosk will house 5g, 4g, and Wi-Fi. The supposed purpose is to bridge the digital divide. CB3 has been designated an equity district because we lack sufficient service. We are slated to receive the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest number of cell towers of the 59 Community Boards, 77. The towers are 32ft tall and house 5 levels of antennas.

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) limits were set in 1996 for Heating only. In 2019 Wired Broadband, EH Trust and other agencies sued the FCC because they refused to change/update the limits. They received a favorable ruling in 2021 after it was found that the 1996 FCC limits did not address 1-biological effects, 2- long-term exposure, 3- modern technology, 4- children's unique vulnerability.

Wireless franchise agreements do not cover personal injury from wireless radiation. They warn shareholders, but not consumers or neighbors.

A letter was sent out on April 20, 2023, stating CityBridge should conduct environmental reviews, prior to construction, under the National Historic Preservation Act Sec.106 and the National Environmental Policy Act. All construction is presently halted.

Over 7,000 small-cell towers are already installed on light poles, about 3000 more have been approved, and about 3000 are proposed. Why do we need the Link5G cell tower?

It is requested that the Committee contact the Borough President and City Council Members to request that a letter be sent to OTI and the Mayor. The HHS Committee will attempt to reach CityBridge and OTI for comments.

Town Hall meetings will be held across NYC with a panel of experts. The President of Fiber Broadband Association will talk about difference between 'wireless' and 'wired' and how a fiber connection has much greater capacity and is safer and more secure.

## **Discussion:**

Anthony Reinhart reported that Senator Lanza has introduced a bill S5123 which states;

1. Cell towers cannot be installed within 250 feet of a residence or business without consent of the building owner, and
2. Community Board approval and an Environmental Quality Review are required before approval in order to better protect the communities.

Contact Info

- [owilkens@wiredbroadband.org](mailto:owilkens@wiredbroadband.org)
- wiredbroadband.org
- NewYorkers4WiredTech.com
- Ehtrust.org

*\*Full presentation on file in the Community Board Office*

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**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

- Free Prom dresses and shoes are available at Where-to-Turn. Appointments are offered on Saturdays from 12-3:00pm. Donations are also being accepted.  
Where-to-Turn - 22 Brienna Court, 10309, 347.273.1371

Respectfully submitted,

**Diane Peruggia**

*Diane Peruggia*

Chair, Health & Human Services Committee