



THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE THE UPPER WEST SIDE

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee
Before the New York City Council Committee on Technology
Deployment of 5G Infrastructure across the city
June 7, 2023**

LANDMARK WEST! is a not-for-profit community organization committed to the preservation of the architectural heritage of the Upper West Side.

The LANDMARK WEST! Certificate of Appropriateness Committee shares concern with Upper West Side neighbors, the wider community and advocacy groups that the design and installation of these proposed 5G towers will have an adverse impact on our Historic Districts and streetscapes. Wifi towers have widened and more than doubled in height in just a few short years. The proposed design is wholly inappropriate not only for its size but for its disproportionate and frankly poor design. These towers are entirely out of scale for residential areas and most commercial areas in Historic Districts, where the streets are often narrow and buildings are lower in scale. They can serve only to clutter the city's streets and Historic Districts.

The lack of clarity regarding the approval and review process of 5G towers has led to a lack of trust from the community. The ostensibly random clusters of approved sites for installation with no official review process undertaken for towers installed in Historic Districts demonstrates a lack of transparency surrounding this important issue. We believe that no concern has been given to the sensitivity of placing these huge towers in Historic Districts or near Individual Landmarks and Scenic Landmarks, simply for City Bridge's own goal of coverage and profit.

The proposal of 5G towers offers to bring equity and access to all with the aim of targeting underserved areas, yet approved installations appear in SoHo and the Upper East Side. Nevertheless, the opaque approval process does not speak to the equity this city hopes to achieve. The public deserves to be fully informed about the seemingly unstoppable approach of 5G towers with a list of proposed and approved locations made available.

The LANDMARK WEST! Certificate of Appropriateness Committee recommends a redesign of the visible 5G infrastructure that applies sensitivity to the city's streetscapes. Alternate designs are possible without compromising the integrity of our city's historic neighborhoods. Our Committee seeks clarification on the process of identifying and approving locations, especially in Historic Districts and near Individual Landmarks and Scenic Landmarks. We want a clear and transparent review process that effectively includes public opinion, including how the public will be informed of proposed sites and how forums for discussion and feedback will be organized. We also seek a list of installations to date with specific locations and an up to date map showing installations to date and proposed locations.

Thank you.