



July 12, 2024

President Deborah Marton  
Public Design Commission  
City Hall, Third Floor  
New York, NY 10007

Dear President Marton:

We are writing regarding our concerns with the Office of Technology and Innovation's proposal to install 5G towers across Manhattan, and more specifically the five towers proposed for areas in our districts on the Upper West Side, within Manhattan Community Board 7. Three of the towers are located at the intersections of Broadway and 62<sup>nd</sup>, 63<sup>rd</sup>, and 64<sup>th</sup> streets, streets that are iconic parts of our districts. The other two are slated to be installed at Columbus Avenue between 96<sup>th</sup> and 97<sup>th</sup> Streets and Columbus Avenue between 94<sup>th</sup> and 95<sup>th</sup> Streets. The Public Design Commission (PDC) approved the design for the 32-foot-tall Link5G towers, which are to be sited in residential areas and historic districts. However, given the height and design of the towers, this decision generated widespread concern among community members.

Last year, following a letter authored by Congressman Nadler to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), it was discovered that the Office of Technology and Innovation (OTI) and Boldyn had failed to go through the proper approval process for their Link5G tower proposal. Subsequently, OTI had to submit their proposal to the State Historic Preservation Office for review. During this review, community stakeholders were given the opportunity to weigh in on the proposal, and many expressed concerns about the towers being out of context with the neighborhood and requested that PDC consider alternative designs.

Smaller 5G infrastructure has been installed on lamp posts and utility poles throughout the City, increasing the City's 5G capabilities in a way that does not interfere with the streetscape and integrity of our historic districts. Additionally, given the rapid speed at which new technology is developed, there is a likelihood that these large towers will soon become obsolete. We ask that whenever possible, the Public Design Commission consider the use of smaller 5G cells in residential neighborhoods and historic districts such as those we represent, which will reduce their impact on the community.

While we understand and support the City's need for more 5G infrastructure, we believe the City should be more thoughtful about the design, especially in non-commercial areas. Given the readily available alternatives and the widespread concern among residents in Community Board 7, we request that the Public Design Commission reconsider its approval of the

current design for the proposed Link5G towers, and work with the Office of Technology and Innovation to site towers in cooperation with community stakeholders.

Sincerely,



JERROLD NADLER  
Member of Congress



BRAD HOYLMAN-SIGAL  
New York State Senator



LINDA ROSENTHAL  
New York State Assembly Member



GALE BREWER  
New York City Council Member



TONY SIMONE  
New York State Assembly Member



MARK LEVINE  
Manhattan Borough President