

## **Stone Bridge HS & Mickie Gordon Park Cellular Tower Proposals Questions & Answers**

### **Stone Bridge High School Cellular Tower Proposal**

- 1. Why are we entertaining this idea of living next to a cell tower? Children will be going to school near the cell tower and we live near this area and we don't want serious harm to our health. A study published in the Germany states that - If you live within a quarter mile of a cell phone antenna or tower, you may be at risk of serious health conditions. That site is devoted to exposing hazards associated with electromagnetic frequencies from cell phone towers and other sources.**

[A] There is no evidence of any harm from low power cell tower radio transmissions according to the overwhelming body of scientific literature on the subject. Cell towers have been in our communities for 37 years while radio has been in existence for over 100 years. Legitimate sources of health organizations such as the World Health Organization state that no evidence of adverse health impacts exist from any wireless technology. The Food and Drug Administration findings state that there is "no consistent pattern" to link radiofrequency radiation to tumors or cancer. There is no accepted science that indicates there is a risk from low levels of RF exposure. The FCC sets the national standard for RF safety to protect the public and the proposed facility will comply with that standard by 100-1000 times.

- 2. This does not need to happen in my viewpoint, and I know we will hear tons of uncorroborated, fake science stories of how they are completely safe. This is year of bad science, and I am not buying it. Why are we putting cell towers were kids are ALL DAY LONG? Why not put it on the Library down the street by 1/2 a mile?**

[A] The library location is too far southeast to serve the target area and already has good coverage at that location; it is also 1/2 mile closer to an existing on-air AT&T site. A tower at this site would not resolve the coverage deficiencies around Stone Bridge HS.

- 3. With 26 Cell towers and 118 Antennas already within 3 miles of the school, why on earth would you want to add on to the amount of RFs to our brains...children and adults? Are there any studies of long-term effects of 27 Cell Towers in a community?**

[A] Exposure to low levels of radio frequency is common in everyday life – and harmless. The instrument we use to assess radio frequency levels does not isolate sources of RF – it records a cumulative reading, from all RF-emitting sources in the environment. From my experience measuring RF levels at ground level on school campuses with towers on it, the cumulative exposure levels are commonly hundreds to thousands of times below the FCC safety levels. If the impact of one cell tower was absolutely negligible as it is, having 27 spread out geographically would also be absolutely negligible and have no cumulative impact whatsoever.

- 4. I just asked if there are any studies for long-term effects for having 27 Cell Towers and 118 Antennas in one community - which is the exact number within 3 miles of SBHS. If your response is to read the studies from government agencies, the following are quotes from the ones you told Rock Ridge to read:  
ACS: "At this time, there isn't a lot of evidence to support this idea. Still, more research is needed to be sure."**

## **Stone Bridge HS & Mickie Gordon Park Cellular Tower Proposals Questions & Answers**

**IARC: "Furthermore, this Monograph is focused on the potential for an increased risk of cancer among those exposed to RF radiation, but does not provide a quantitative assessment of any cancer risk, nor does it discuss or evaluate any other potential health effects of RF radiation."**

**FCC: "Some studies have also examined the possibility of a link between RF exposure and cancer. Results to date have been inconclusive."**

[A] The FDA's publication "Review of published Literature between 2008 and 2018 of Relevance to Radiofrequency Radiation and Cancer" findings state that there is "no consistent pattern" to link radiofrequency radiation to tumors or cancer. The low power and substantial horizontal and vertical separation of the antennas from the adults and children on the school grounds should not be any basis for concern.

- 5. Why is the cell tower needed there for AT&T? I am not looking for a "want" I want to know why it is needed. Thank you**

[A] The main objective of the need for this site is to add and enhance AT&T coverage near Stone Bridge High School in Ashburn, VA. The addition of this site will improve coverage including in-building coverage on Belmont Ridge Road, Hay Road, Ashburn Farm Parkway, and Claiborne Parkway and all adjoining residential communities and streets. Currently, this area has weak AT&T coverage. The Proposed site will also ensure overlap coverage, handoffs and off-load traffic among existing AT&T sites. Commuters and residents will experience better quality of voice and data services from AT&T with the addition of the Stone Bridge HS site.

- 6. There are already about 15 light towers on the school property. Why is a new tower being built in a new location instead replacing one of the existing light towers? I understand that the cell tower is twice the height of the light towers, but it would be more in character of the existing viewshed. A new tower in a new location creates an additional eyesore beyond the ones already in place.**

[A] A replacement light pole was the first option considered by Milestone and LCPS. However, from the site walk and review of existing utilities and easements, it was determined that none of the existing light poles were suitable for development. This was due to space constraints, conflicts with underground utilities, setbacks to buildings and property lines, and access issues.

- 7. What do you need from the community to stop this tower from going up?**

[A] The purpose of this meeting is to solicit feedback from the school and surrounding community on this proposal. Milestone will work with AT&T and LCPS on making any adjustments to the proposal based on feedback received at this meeting. If the project moves forward, it will still need to gain approval from the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors – in addition, there will be another community meeting held to update the community on changes to the proposal prior to any scheduled public hearings.

- 8. I don't really have a question, I just want to note that I am not in favor of the cell tower at Stone Bridge HS. I think it will be an eyesore. I would like to see more**

## **Stone Bridge HS & Mickie Gordon Park Cellular Tower Proposals Questions & Answers**

**point of view photos from further down Stonecottage Place and Hay Road. It seems like a 155-foot tall tower would be visible from other vantage points in the neighborhood across the street from Stone Bridge. Due to my work schedule, I won't be able to attend the virtual meeting on 4/14.**

[A] Milestone will schedule an additional balloon fly as part of the County land use process – and will mail out notice of this balloon fly in advance so that community members can assess the visibility from their houses and surrounding area. If you have specific suggestions on locations / addresses – please send them to me [Milestone Towers] and I [Milestone Towers] will coordinate to have photos taken from them at that time. There is no date scheduled at this time but would likely occur in next 2-3 months.

- 9. How much annual revenue will the tower generate for LCPS? Does Milestone have an alternate location for this cell tower? What can residents do to oppose this cell tower? What are the benefits of having a cell tower on LCPS property?**

[A] Milestone pays a \$40,000 site fee upon execution of the site license and shares 40% of the gross tower revenues with LCPS. The total amount of revenue depends on the number of providers located on the tower during a given year. Factoring in the site fees, we would expect Stone Bridge HS to generate between an average of \$30k and \$40k on an annual basis over period of 10 years. Milestone does not have an alternate location for the tower.

- 10. Can Milestone use another LCPS location? Perhaps some of the large property by the Academies of Loudoun or by the school board building as both of those locations have adjacent undeveloped land.**

[A] There are no other LCPS locations that would provide the needed coverage.

- 11. What are the benefits to Stone Bridge and/or LCPS if we build this Cell Tower?**

[A] In addition to the financial benefits to the school system, the tower would provide improved wireless service to the 1,000+ households in surrounding area, as well as to the 1,800+ school community at Stone Bridge HS. FirstNet would also be equipped on the tower, which would enhance mobile communications for the County first responders as well LCPS safety and transportation personnel. Lastly, there would be space dedicated on the tower should LCPS or the County want to install public safety or other communication equipment, at no additional cost.

- 12. Do we know the long-term effects of being so close to a cell tower? If the answer is unknown, are we willing to risk the health of students and staff?**

[A] There is substantial horizontal and vertical separation of the proposed monopole antennas to the school building and to nearby homes. I have measured the output of these facilities for 37 years and the output is nothing more than low power radio. From our experience measuring exposure at ground level and review of credible research and publications by the agencies that oversee the industry, there are no long term health effects by virtue of the existence of these facilities in our communities for 37 years and no known impacts exist to date. Further, low power radio energy has existed from

## **Stone Bridge HS & Mickie Gordon Park Cellular Tower Proposals Questions & Answers**

electrical and electronic devices for well over 100 years in our communities. The subject continues to be researched but no correlation has been found to date.

## **Stone Bridge HS & Mickie Gordon Park Cellular Tower Proposals Questions & Answers**

### **Mickie Gordon Park Cellular Tower Proposal**

- 1. Have other locations for the proposed cellular tower other than Mickie Gordon been explored? The water tower in the town of Middleburg looks like an excellent location, it's higher elevation and there is already industrial equipment on site.**

[A] AT&T looked at existing telecommunication sites in the surrounding area before approaching Milestone about building a new site. The water tower in Middleburg is over 1.5 miles away and AT&T is already installed on it. It cannot achieve the coverage objective in this area with that site.

- 2. How many support buildings will be constructed at the base of the cell tower?**

[A] The ground equipment required to operate the facility will be located at the base of the tower, enclosed by an 8' tall chain link fence with vinyl slats. There is only one equipment compound, it will be 74'x34' (2,516 square feet). All the providers equipment will be housed inside of the compound.

- 3. My property is next to the proposed cellular tower. After the tower is constructed, how much will it decrease the value of my property?**

[A] From Milestone's experience building over 130 towers in largely suburban areas, we do not see any reason to believe there would be an impact to property values as a result of this tower. We analyzed publicly available sales data within one mile of a nearby tower (1.75 miles southeast – 24064 Old Carolina Road, Aldie, VA) and did not find any trends that suggest negative impacts to property values in the four years after the site was constructed in 2006. In comparison, this tower was 200' away from the nearest residence and more visible from surrounding areas. Our proposed tower is over 700' away from the nearest residence and largely screened by existing mature trees. In addition, the tower will improve connectivity and also provide reliable access to wireless service the surrounding community, which is an increasingly important factor for prospective homebuyers.

- 4. The April 14 event was a briefing, not a hearing, and the proposal is only now being described to the public. When will the local community most affected be given a more meaningful hearing to have concerns heard and addressed?**

[A] In addition to the public briefing on April 14, Milestone will hold a separate community balloon fly and community meeting to present the proposal, listen to feedback, and answer any questions from the surrounding community. There is no date scheduled at this time but it would likely occur in next 2-3 months. Notices would be mailed to property owners in the surrounding area in advance of future events with information on how to participate as well as contact information for questions or comments.