

For Immediate Release
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Elected Officials Demand New York City Permanently End Program to Install 32-Foot-Tall Sidewalk Cell Towers

NEW YORK—[Carnegie Hill Neighbors](#) today applauded U.S. Rep. Jerry Nadler, Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine, Senator Liz Krueger, Assembly Members Alex Bores and Rebecca Seawright, and City Council Members Julie Menin and Keith Powers for demanding a permanent end to the Link5G program in a letter to Mayor Adams and two key City agencies.

The letter calls on the Public Design Commission (PDC) and the Office of Technology and Innovation (OTI) to review and rescind its 2022 approval of the installation of 200 Link5G towers in residential zones and historic districts. It promises legislation to ensure future changes to streetscapes are handled with more comprehensive community input.

The massive, out-of-scale, and unnecessary towers, which lack any historic reference to other structures in the area, have threatened to defile the city's iconic historic districts. Carnegie Hill Neighbors has led a successful charge to propose a better connectivity plan; in February, the State Historic Preservation Office [advised against](#) adding the final planned CityBridge sidewalk cell tower in the neighborhood.

“I applaud this extraordinary group of legislators for seeing this issue as clearly as their constituents do. The Link5G program is a failure, and it's past time for the City to admit its mistake and start over,” said **Joanna Cawley, Executive Director of Carnegie Hill Neighbors**. “Other cities in the US and around the world have improved connectivity without destroying their historic districts. New York City can do the same. I urge Mayor Adams, PDC, and OTI to find a better way to reach their connectivity goals.”

Last fall, CHN stood with U.S. Rep. Jerry Nadler, Assembly Member Bores, Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, and Council Member Powers as Assembly Member Bores unveiled a [report](#), “*Navigating the 5G Revolution: Solutions for New York City's Connectivity Challenges*,” which outlined alternatives to the 32-foot-tall towers.

These elected officials, longtime champions in the effort to protect historic districts, also co-signed letters to the [Landmarks Preservation Commission](#) and [FCC](#) in protest of the City's proposed plans.

Full text of the letter is below:

Dear President Marton:

We are writing to you regarding the Office of Technology and Innovation's proposal to install 5G towers within Manhattan's Community Board 8, which we represent. The Public Design Commission (PDC) approved the design for the 32-foot-tall Link5G towers, which are to be placed in residential areas and historic districts. Given the height and design of the towers, this decision generated widespread concern amongst 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 (SHPO) 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 become obsolete in the near future. Whenever possible, we ask that the Public Design Commission consider the use of smaller 5G cells in residential neighborhoods and historic districts, so as to reduce their impact on the community.

While we understand and support the City's need for more 5G infrastructure, we believe we should be more thoughtful about the design, especially in non-commercial areas. Given the readily available alternatives and the widespread concern amongst residents in Community Board 8, I am requesting that the Public Design Commission reconsider their approval of the current design for the proposed Link5G towers, and to work with the Office of Technology and Innovation to site towers in cooperation with community stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Mark Levine
Manhattan Borough President

Liz Krueger
State Senator

Alex Bores
State Assembly Member

Rebecca Seawright
State Assembly Member

Keith Powers
City Council Member

Julie Menin
City Council Member

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About Carnegie Hill Neighbors

Founded in 1970, Carnegie Hill Neighbors' mission to preserve the architectural heritage and special historic character of Carnegie Hill combines outreach, education, and volunteer service in pursuit of a safe, green, and walkable streetscape with thriving small businesses for the multi-generational, residential area.