

DISTRICT OFFICE
444 EAST 75TH STREET, UNIT 1B,
NEW YORK, NY 10021
TEL: 212-860-1950

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE
250 BROADWAY, SUITE 1821
NEW YORK, NY 10007
TEL: 212-860-1950

E-MAIL: District5@council.nyc.gov



THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
JULIE MENIN

COUNCIL MEMBER, 5TH DISTRICT, MANHATTAN

CHAIR
SMALL BUSINESS

COMMITTEES
CIVIL SERVICE AND LABOR
CONSUMER AND WORKER PROTECTION
EDUCATION
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
PARKS AND RECREATION
SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

April 11th, 2023

Matthew C. Fraser
Chief Technology Officer & Commissioner
New York City Office of Technology and Innovation
2 MetroTech Center, P1
Brooklyn, NY 11201

RE: Link5G Kiosk Installations

Dear Commissioner Fraser,

I am writing to respectfully request that the New York City Office of Technology and Innovation (OTI) reconsider their plan for the new LinkNYC 5G installation program in Manhattan Community Board 8 and throughout the City. Our office has received an overwhelming outpouring of complaints from constituents regarding the proposed installation of these new LinkNYC towers to our neighborhood.

Since the announcement of these towers, constituents have raised several different concerns. Notably, the sheer size and density of the towers is obstructive and disruptive. The towers, some of which reach 32 feet in height and can be situated a little over 10 ft from existing buildings, do not blend into the existing streetscape, especially in proposed locations that are part of historic Districts. The proposed infrastructure would detract from the unique character of the neighborhood. Many constituents have expressed concerns about proposed installations that obstruct sidewalk accessibility and impede bus stops.

We implore OTI to explore other innovative ideas to fulfill the goals of the Link5G program and move away from deploying these large towers in Manhattan Community Board 8 and across other residential neighborhoods. OTI must provide better notice to community boards, civic associations and elected officials to more robustly incorporate community feedback on these proposed sites. Additionally, OTI must consider another design and reassess the amount of street-level installations necessary in residential neighborhoods as poletop and rooftop installations should be considered. Other large cities such as Chicago have been able to strike a balance between building out 5G infrastructure to bridge the digital divide while also prioritizing quality of life and neighborhood aesthetics.

Thank you for your courtesy and cooperation in regard to this matter and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julie Menin".

New York City Council Member Julie Menin
5th Council District