

**From:** Cynthia STANLEY [mailto:cynstanley@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 5, 2019 9:58 AM  
**To:** David Ross <David.Ross@Spotsylvania.va.us>; Aimee Mann <AMann@spotsylvania.va.us>; David Dameron <DDameron@spotsylvania.va.us>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]: telecommunications tower by Peace United Methodist Church

Sirs:

I live at 3901 Doran Road. I go pass this church daily. I have no problems with it going up. I might add I also do not attend this church.

I do have problems with people not having access to services. Every time I go visit my daughter in Fluvanna I lose service. It has just been recently that they got internet service on a regular basis. No child should have to go to the library or stay after school to access to the internet or to have smooth phone service.

One of these towers went up out towards Harrison crossing.....yes we all noticed it at first. Now it is not even noticed.

Many groups and individuals will benefit from this tower. To deny them this because some group says its not pleasing to their eye....is just plain wrong.

Thank you for your time.

Cynthia Stanley

3901 Doran Road

Fredericksburg, VA 22407

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**From:** Michael Steele [mailto:steelemf69@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 06, 2019 8:53 AM  
**To:** David Ross  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]: Cell Tower Application at PUMC

Dear Supervisor Ross

I would like to add my voice to those in favor of the cell tower application at Peace United Methodist Church. My sincere hope is that all of the factual or legitimate concerns expressed by those opposed to the tower have been addressed. I'm sure that many similar objections were expressed and addressed when the tower was installed at Zoan Baptist Church on Rte 3. At the time of that installation I lived in the Creekside subdivision, one mile to the west. Traveling on Rte 3 the tower is now part of the scenery.

The providers' analyses project the future needs for coverage with increasing demand. They are based on facts rather than on emotion, and will help to address the service needs of all, even those who are expressing opposition.

Thank you in advance for your support of this application.

Michael F Steele  
30 Year member of PUMC  
Former Consultant, Center for Municipal Solutions  
<http://www.telecomsol.com/www2/node/1>

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"The greatest tragedy is not the brutality of the evil people, but rather the silence of the good people."  
MLK Jr.

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From: CHARLES BARBOUR  
To: David Ross  
Subject: [EXTERNAL]: Peace Church cell tower

Sent: Wed, 04 Sep 2019 20:02:15 GMT

Dear David,

As a ongoing supporter of yours, I've agreed with many of your votes on matters within the Courtland district. I was especially gratified with your personal efforts and wonderful results with improving traffic flow on Rt.3 from Bragg Rd. to Courter. I am a voting member of your community and have attended several of you meetings at Regency Villas and

Regency At Chancellorsville. I hope you are in support of the cell tower at Peace Church where it will serve not only your contingency but many area residents and travelers through the area.

Charles A Barbour

7303 Brigade Ct. 22407

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**From:** Don Shelby  
**To:** David Ross  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]: Peace cell tower

**Sent:** Tue, 03 Sep 2019 17:31:00 GMT

I support the construction of this facility. Our telecom community needs the bandwidth.

Don Shelby  
3532 Waverly Dr.  
Fredericksburg, VA 22407

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**From:** David Ross <David.Ross@Spotsylvania.va.us>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 30, 2019 9:03 AM  
**To:** Jim Wimmer  
**Cc:** Dan Measell  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL]:

Jim,

Thank you for your email. Unfortunately – I have had over 100 residents come out against the placement concerned about esthetics and their property values decreasing as a result of the cell tower. For these reasons, I cannot support it at this time.

Sincerely,

Dave

David Ross  
Courtland Representative  
Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors  
Cell – 571.594.0814  
Updates on County Business – [www.facebook.com/Dave4Spotsy](http://www.facebook.com/Dave4Spotsy)

**From:** Jim Wimmer [mailto:wimmerjim@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 29, 2019 5:11 PM  
**To:** David Ross  
**Cc:** Dan Measell  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]:

Mr Ross,

I am reaching out to you to request your support and approval in the proposed cell tower on Peace Church property. Our congregation believes this will provide a community service and fully supports this project.

Best regards

Jim Wimmer  
12519 Regiment Lane  
Fredericksburg Va 22407

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**From:** Nancy Thomas <nancythomas99@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 31, 2019 12:01 AM  
**To:** David Ross  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]: Telecommunications Tower

Dear Supervisor Ross,

Please strongly consider accepting the application to approve the telecommunications tower on the property of Peace United Methodist Church.

This facility will bring improved wireless and emergency communications services to the area and allow Peace United Methodist Church to increase and improve its community outreach through a variety of programs.

The number of protesters is small and the number of those who want the tower is huge. Please consider this as you vote.

Thank you in advance.  
Sincerely,  
Nancy L. Thomas

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**From:** Jenny Townsend <jennytown66@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 1, 2019 1:20 PM  
**To:** David Ross  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]: Cell Tower - Peace United Methodist Church - Maple Grove Community

Please support and approve the proposed cell tower on Peace United Methodist Church property at 801 Maple Grove Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22407.

Approval will bring much needed wireless and emergency communications services to the area.

In addition, the proceeds will be used by the church to maintain our facilities and better support our worship, education (Preschool), and community-based outreach programs that support the community through a Food Pantry (on Thursdays), AA Support, Al-Anon, AlaTeen, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, CoDa, Widerness Run Players, Potato Drop programs, we also support School Dressing Days for underprivileged families.

Thank you for your support,  
Virginia (Jenny) Townsend  
13115 Chapel Hills Drive  
Fredericksburg, VA 22407

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**From:** Tom Cline <tomfredva60@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 3, 2019 3:28 PM  
**To:** David Ross  
**Cc:** Aimee Mann  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]: Peace UMC Cell Tower

Mr. Ross – I am emailing to express my support for the cell phone tower that is proposed to be erected on the property of Peace United Methodist Church on Maple Grove Road. I understand this petition is coming up for a final vote at the September 10, 2019 Board of Supervisors meeting.

I believe that any activity that improves telecommunications for personal, business or emergency purposes needs to be given favorable consideration in today's world, but an example that comes to my mind often is the earthquake of 2011. On that day landline, internet and cell phone communications were impossible from Richmond, VA to Washington, DC. My wife and I were unable to communicate for hours, and we had no idea where our children were. It was one of the most frightening events of our lives. Would one more cell tower have helped all of us that day? Perhaps and perhaps not? But it sure would not have made matters worse, and I suspect it might have provided a boost of accessibility that would have helped many families and first responders.

I urge your vote to approve the cell tower petition. Thank you.

Thomas Cline  
Maple Grove subdivision

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

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From: Comcast Email  
To: Aimee Mann  
CC: David Dameron ; David Ross  
Subject: [EXTERNAL]: Cell Tower at Peace United Methodist church

Sent: Thu, 05 Sep 2019 00:27:58 GMT

To the Spotsylvania Board of Supervisors, Mr. Ross and Mr. Dameron,

I am emailing to express my support for the cell phone tower that is proposed to be erected on the property of Peace United Methodist Church on Maple Grove Road. I understand this petition is coming up for a final vote at the September 10<sup>th</sup> Board of Supervisors meeting.

I can think of 2 instances where a close cell tower could have been a help.

The first instance was when we had the earth quake that shook the area. At the time I didn't know what was going on. I tried calling my husband who was working in D.C. and couldn't get through.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> incident was when a neighbor across the street from Peace United Methodist church had a medical issue. A family member was with the individual but clearly needed help with the situation. I was on my way home and called 911 for them. To my surprise, I was connected to Fredericksburg City's 911 operator. She connected me to Spotsylvania 911. The point is, time was lost, by not getting through to Spotsylvania 911 right away.

In both cases, having the cell tower on the church property might have made a difference, as far as me being able to get through to people I needed to talk to.

I also live around the corner from the church and am not worried about my property values declining or the cell tower giving off anything to affect my health.

Please approve the application for the cell tower.

Thank you,  
Penny Cline  
Maple Grove Subdivision

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

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**AT&T – Peace United Methodist Church Proposed Cell Tower  
SUP 18-0011**

To the Board of Supervisors of Spotsylvania County:

My name is Stephen W. Kerr and I serve on the Board of Trustees for Peace United Methodist Church. You will be taking action on our joint application with AT&T for a proposed cell tower adjacent to the church on September 10, 2019. I would like to provide you with additional background information about this application in light of the negative testimony presented by neighbors to the church at the BOS public hearing held on August 13, 2019.

AT&T approached the church almost five (5) years ago with a proposal to locate a cell tower next to the parking lot of the church. At first, the congregation was skeptical of the proposal for some of the reasons expressed at the BOS public hearing — e.g. radiation concerns and visual concerns. However, as representatives of the church continued to meet with AT&T, they were able to alleviate our concerns with the information presented by their engineers and other technical experts. The congregation was asked to vote on whether to work with AT&T on the project or walk away from it. The majority of the church congregation indicated that they would like the church to proceed with the application.

As a result of this decision, the church entered into a lengthy series of negotiations on a lease agreement that would meet the needs of AT&T but would also protect the church from unseen hazards such as the tower being leased to a subcontractor, abandonment of the tower, damage to the tower, etc. These lease negotiations were also reviewed by an attorney we retained, the Board of Trustees, and several members of the congregation with experience in church negotiations with cell tower companies (myself included).

In the meantime, a balloon test and citizen information meeting was held in December 2016 by AT&T and the church to provide citizens living in the subdivision an opportunity to review the proposal and provide feedback. A small group of citizens turned out and made some specific recommendations regarding the location and appearance of the tower and some came out to express their support for the application. Based on the feedback received, AT&T moved the proposed cell tower from the middle of the open land next to the church parking lot farther back toward a tree line bordering the property and also agreed to disguise the tower. The AT&T engineers also explained that cell tower signal transmissions are not in a concentrated signal like they were in the beginning of cellular communications (approx. 20 years ago) but are now in a much more disbursed pattern that does not cause any radiation concerns whatsoever.

After the citizen meeting, lease agreement negotiations continued for some time with the finalized lease agreement being executed between the church and AT&T in March 2018. The 50+ page lease agreement is extremely detailed and covers all envisioned scenarios of issues that could occur with cell towers. Included in the lease agreement is an enhanced landscaping plan that the church requested AT&T to agree to ensure that the cell tower equipment building on the property would be more than sufficiently screened from the residences across the street. I believe that this lease agreement goes far above and beyond the average cell tower proposal and is a significant plus for the county since it protects the church and the county from a wide range of legal and technical issues.

Once the lease agreement was completed, AT&T proceeded with filing the special permit application. The county application review meeting was held on October 11, 2018 and no significant issues were raised by the staff. At the meeting, AT&T was asked to provide information on how the tower would meet “First Net” emergency communications requirements (which they did) and to provide some additional graphics regarding what the mature vegetation would look like around the cell tower equipment building and how the tower would be disguised (which they did).

Due to the lack of issues regarding the application and the fact that AT&T had addressed all of the county concerns, the Cable Television & Telecommunications Commission meeting was cancelled. However, the county requested AT&T to hold a second citizen information meeting since it had been some time since the last meeting was held. The second meeting was held in February 2019 and approximately 20 people showed up.

There were no petitions against the tower and no one expressed any concern about radiation. AT&T set up information tables and people could walk around and learn the details about all aspects of the tower design, location, and operation. Some people also expressed their desire to get the project approved so their cell signal strength would improve.

The staff review and subsequent report on the special use permit application was positive. The staff found the application in conformance with the comprehensive plan and all applicable provisions of the zoning ordinance and recommended approval of the application. The Planning Commission held their public hearing on the special permit application July 17, 2019. Four (4) speakers showed up and spoke against the application citing radiation and visual concerns. Prior to making his motion, the Courtland District Planning Commissioner advised the citizens that health concerns and location are not permissible reasons for the Planning Commission to recommend denial of the application as they are controlled by Federal law and the FCC. The Planning Commission went on to recommend the approval of SUP-0011 by the BOS 7-0.

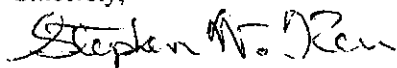
As you are aware, at the BOS public hearing held on August 13, 2019, six (6) speakers spoke against the application, again citing radiation and visual concerns, factors that cannot be considered by the BOS in acting on an application. One of the speakers mentioned they had a petition with over 100 names on it opposing the cell tower application. The vast majority of these people never attended either citizen information meeting as they would have learned that radiation is a non-factor in this application and there was never any petition presented at the citizen information meetings like the one submitted at the BOS meeting. What you had were some uninformed citizens that never learned anything about the application and started a fear mongering process by posting signs in the neighbor opposing the cell tower. Where were they when all of the review and discussion was going on two (2) years prior to this public hearing?

So, where do we stand now? Let me summarize the facts as I know them:

1. AT&T and Peace United Methodist Church have an airtight comprehensive lease agreement that protects the church and the county
2. AT&T and Peace United Methodist Church held not one, but two citizen meetings to give an opportunity to provide input and make changes to the application in response to the citizen input received
3. AT&T has agreed to provide "First Net" emergency communications technology on the tower to assist the county
4. SUP 18-0011 was determined by the staff to be consistent with the comprehensive plan and it meets all applicable provisions of the zoning ordinance
5. Staff recommended approval of SUP 18-0011
6. The Planning Commission recommended approval to the BOS by a 7-0 vote
7. Under federal law and FCC regulations, local governments cannot deny a telecommunication facility based on health concerns or the location of the telecommunications facility

The Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors is not going to get a better cell tower application than this one. It goes far beyond the normal requirements and I urge you to approve this application.

Sincerely,



Stephen W. Kerr, Trustee.  
Peace United Methodist Church

P.S. I served as Assistant Director of Zoning Evaluation for Fairfax County Dept. of Planning & Zoning from 1985 – 2000. During this time we processed thousands of zoning applications, including a number of cell towers. I empathize with your dilemma when dealing with citizen concerns – I heard about every citizen complaint you can think of. However, there are times when you just have to say "I'm sorry" to the citizens because you do not have any real legal reason to deny the application.