

**Jacob, Melinda**

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**Subject:** FW: please approve the ATT tower on Solano

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**From:** melinda white [<mailto:melindawhite@mindspring.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 08, 2012 10:52 AM  
**To:** Johnson, Pamela  
**Cc:** Jacob, Melinda; Blount, Terry  
**Subject:** Re: please approve the ATT tower on Solano

See letter below. Thanks.  
Melinda White

November 2, 2012

I am writing in support of the new AT&T cell phone towers at 1861 Solano Avenue. I am both a Berkeley homeowner (901 The Alameda- right across the street from the new tower location) and I am a business owner (1635 Solano Ave.). I use my cell phone both in my work as a psychotherapist and for personal use. It is quite distressing to have poor connections at both home and work.

I am very excited about the proposed tower which will greatly improve my connectivity and enable me to conduct business and make personal phone calls from the places I live and work. I have had much better connections in foreign countries than I have down the block from my own home and business. The sooner this gets approved, the better off our neighborhood will be.

Thank you for considering the greater good of this proposal as it will enhance the technological experience in our area.

Sincerely,

Melinda White

On Nov 8, 2012, at 10:46 AM, Johnson, Pamela wrote:

Dear Ms. White,

We are unable to open the attached letter in support of the AT&T installation, however, we do have your e-mail expressing support which was sent April 9, 2012 and was included in the ZAB packet. If you would like to have your most recent letter included in the record, please bring 15 copies to the ZAB meeting tonight and we will distribute the letter to the ZAB members.

I apologize for our technical difficulties and the inconvenience this might cause.

Thank you,

Pamela Johnson| Assistant Planner | City of Berkeley  
Planning and Development | Land Use Planning Division

2120 Milvia Street | Berkeley, CA 94704  
☎ 510.981.7548 | 7 510.981.7420  
[pjohnson@ci.berkeley.ca.us](mailto:pjohnson@ci.berkeley.ca.us)

Please note: As a cost saving measure the City of Berkeley is closed the 2nd and 4th Friday of every month. Additional closures may occur. For the latest City Closures and Holidays please check the City of Berkeley Homepage at [www.ci.berkeley.ca.us](http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us) .

-----Original Message-----

From: Blount, Terry  
Sent: Monday, November 05, 2012 8:27 AM  
To: Jacob, Melinda; Johnson, Pamela  
Subject: FW: please approve the ATT tower on Solano

Please make copies for the ZAB members. Thanks.

Terry Blount, AICP  
Principal Planner/Zoning Adjustments Board Secretary City of Berkeley Planning & Development Department  
Land Use Planning Division  
2120 Milvia Street, 2nd Floor  
Berkeley, CA 94704  
510.981.7430 (PH)  
510.981.7420 (FX)  
510.981.7474 (TDD)  
P please consider the environment before printing this email

-----Original Message-----

From: Melinda White [<mailto:melindawhite@mindspring.com>]  
Sent: Friday, November 02, 2012 7:07 PM  
To: Blount, Terry  
Cc: BARBARA LESLIE  
Subject: please approve the ATT tower on Solano

I am attaching my letter in support of the AT&T cell phone tower on Solano Ave. Thank you for seeing that it goes to the proper personnel.

Melinda White  
<AT&T letter>

**Jacob, Melinda**

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**Subject:** FW: Use Permit #11-10000032 at 1861 Solano Avenue (Item 5 at ZAB meeting tomorrow)

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**From:** John Caner [<mailto:jcaner@downtownberkeley.com>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 07, 2012 4:51 PM

**To:** Johnson, Pamela

**Cc:** Blount, Terry

**Subject:** Use Permit #11-10000032 at 1861 Solano Avenue (Item 5 at ZAB meeting tomorrow)

Dear Pamela:

I am writing to express my personal support for approval of **Use Permit #11-10000032 at 1861 Solano Avenue** to establish a new wireless telecommunication facility for AT&T including twelve antennas on the façade of the Oaks Theatre and related equipment in an outdoor lease area.

The Downtown Berkeley Association does not take positions on project outside the Downtown area, hence my letter of personal support. However, as a business leader I know that good cellular coverage and capacity is critical for Berkeley to stay competitive in the business marketplace. Poor coverage and capacity jeopardizes our ability to attract new business and ongoing customers to Solano area and all of Berkeley. It is important that City of Berkeley allow AT&T and other carriers to provide the telecommunications infrastructure for our local businesses to remain competitive.

Moreover, as a prior Commissioner to the Fire and Disaster Preparedness Commission, I believe good wireless coverage and capacity is paramount for public safety, disaster preparedness, as well as general quality of life in Berkeley.

Please do not hesitate to call me at my office 510.549.2230 x12 or my cellphone 510.501.0256 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

John Caner

CEO

Downtown Berkeley Association

2230 Shattuck Avenue, Suite C

Berkeley, CA 94704

510.549.2230 x12

[jcaner@downtownberkeley.com](mailto:jcaner@downtownberkeley.com)

**Jacob, Melinda**

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**From:** Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)  
**Subject:** FW: Support for application for AT&T wireless facility at 1861 Solano Avenue (Use Permit # 11-10000032)

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**From:** [davidsanger@gmail.com](mailto:davidsanger@gmail.com) [<mailto:davidsanger@gmail.com>] **On Behalf Of** David Sanger  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 06, 2012 3:37 PM  
**To:** Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)  
**Subject:** Support for application for AT&T wireless facility at 1861 Solano Avenue (Use Permit #11-10000032)

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board and Land Use Planning Staff:

As a small business owner, 35-year resident of Albany, and frequent customer of North Berkeley shops and restaurants, I am writing in support of the pending application of AT&T for a Wireless Facility at 1861 Solano Avenue, Berkeley and offer the following items for your consideration:

**1. Wireless communication is increasingly essential for everyday life.** For many citizens wireless is their primary telephone and communications access. The CDC identified 40% of Alameda county households as only or mostly wireless. For small businesses like mine it can be the primary means of communicating with clients and vendors. For many retail businesses it is an essential adjunct of their service providing customers with location maps, menus, reservations and reviews. Providing adequate wireless coverage for all citizens with the carrier of their choice ought to be a high public priority. The availability of wireless service is a net public benefit for a community. Lack of such service diminishes the attractiveness of a municipality.

**2. ATT coverage in North Berkeley at present is terrible to non-existent.** My own experience and that of friends and neighbors is that 3G coverage on Solano Avenue is rarely available. During this year's Solano Stroll I found no coverage at all (cell, Edge or 3G) for the entire length of Solano Avenue. AT&T's coverage map (CNU4216 Propagation Map, page 3) shows existing "Outdoor Service" in the Solano Avenue corridor, but this is an exaggeration. AT&T is reluctant to admit it for obvious marketing and competitive reasons but their coverage in North Berkeley is actually considerably worse than their coverage maps show.

**3. Lack of wireless coverage effects public safety** and the general welfare of many citizens who may not come forward to protest. In my own experience dropped calls or lack of service often prevent my contacting my home or office while out of the house. During a recent family medical emergency, AT&T repeatedly dropped my calls to arrange urgent same day air travel back to the East coast. A recent comment in Albany Patch quotes an Albany Police officer describing a citizen unable to make an emergency wireless call after being robbed. Another woman had to send her teenage child in to the middle of the street to get cell reception to call the fire department after a fire broke out

in their back yard in the middle of the night. Hypothetical long-term, low percentage health risks associated with cell phone base stations are little compared to the very real and immediate safety risks imposed by the lack of reliable wireless service,

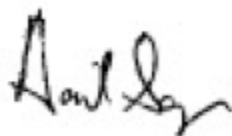
**4. Municipalities may not consider purported health considerations in evaluating wireless applications.** As you know 47 U.S.C. § 332(c)(7)(iv) says

"No State or local government or instrumentality thereof may regulate the placement, construction, and modification of personal wireless service facilities on the basis of the environmental effects of radio frequency emissions to the extent that such facilities comply with the Commission's regulations concerning such emissions."

Several commenters in the record have complained of just such purported health issues, expressing concern about wireless facilities located near schools and residences. This is misguided, and the City would be at risk of violating Federal Law if it considered such comments in evaluating this application. The proper venue for such citizen concerns is the FCC not the local municipality.

In conclusion I urge you to approve the AT&T application for 1861 Solano Avenue so that improved wireless service can be expedited for the citizens and business of the North Berkeley area.

Thank you for your consideration,



David Sanger,

David Sanger Photography LLC

Albany CA

**Blount, Terry**

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**From:** Maryellen Sternad [MSter3@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 05, 2012 7:56 PM  
**To:** Blount, Terry  
**Subject:** Better AT&T cell coverage

Dear Mr. Blount-I am writing to show my support for better wireless coverage in the Albany-Berkeley area. We do not have a landline phone and rely entirely on our cell phones. We both work and use our cell phones to communicate with our 2 children, especially our teenage son. I also use my phone for work and it has been extremely frustrating to have so many dropped calls, especially during a business call. Please support the initiative to bring phone coverage to the Solano area.

Thank you,  
Maryellen Sternad

Sent from my iPad

**Blount, Terry**

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**From:** jsinai@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Monday, November 05, 2012 2:36 PM  
**To:** Blount, Terry  
**Subject:** ATT application for Oaks Theater

Dear Zoning Adjustment Board,

I've lived in North Berkeley for over 20 years and I can safely say that I have never received effective service on my ATT cell phone. I use my cell phone both personally and professionally and it is hugely inconvenient that my service is limited to non-existent when I enter my neighborhood. This service has worsened with now that I have an I-phone - I now receive NO service inside my house. I didn't realize that would happen, but that's the reality.

Please approve the application to install antennae on Solano Ave.

Thank you for your consideration.

Julie Sinai  
1661 Tacoma Avenue  
Berkeley, CA 94707

**Blount, Terry**

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**From:** Jane Tierney [jetierney@mac.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 07, 2012 8:44 AM  
**To:** Blount, Terry  
**Subject:** Fwd: Letter to ZAB in favor of AT&T antenna on Thousand Oaks Theater

Here is a letter from a constituent in favor of the AT&T antenna on Thousand Oaks Theater.

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Jane Lenoir <mjflute@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Letter to ZAB  
**Date:** November 7, 2012 8:38:48 AM PST  
**To:** Jane Tierney <jetierney@mac.com>

Dear ZAB,

I live on 826 Miramar Avenue in the Thousand Oaks neighborhood of Berkeley. I am a self-employed musician and teacher. I travel constantly to schools, concerts, rehearsals, and my 3 studios where I teach private lessons to young school age children. I use my iphone for all my business because I am mobile and need to be reached en route to work, be accessible for last minute changes, and be available for calls for work.

Living in this neighborhood is a great joy to me as I love the community, but the ATT cellphone service is just horrible. So many calls get dropped, and I have to run out into the middle of the street to salvage them. It is almost always business, and much is urgent. I am single and if there is a threatening person in the neighborhood (this happens sometimes), I am not able to call out with my cellphone.

I urge you to support the building of the new ATT tower in Thousand Oaks. This is the 21st century, not the 1960's. It's time to move forward!!

Yours truly,

Jane Lenoir, flutist and teacher  
[www.janelenoir.com](http://www.janelenoir.com)



Blount, Terry

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**From:** Brendan Pritikin [brendan.pritikin@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 06, 2012 2:19 PM  
**To:** Blount, Terry  
**Subject:** Note in strong support of AT&T's cell tower application request at 1861 Solano

Hi Mr. Blount,

I'm a resident in Berkeley who lives just off the Arlington about two blocks up hill from where the cell tower will be placed according to AT&T (1861 Solano), and I'd like to extend my strong support for this tower to happen. I've had AT&T for years, and it has given me the best coverage where I go in the Bay, except for at home. Coverage in the hills and down Marin from the bear fountain to San Pablo Ave. has always been horrible, but placing this tower at the edge of the business district could fix this huge gap once and for all. I use AT&T as its the only carrier I can surf and talk on my iPhone with in addition to its unique coverage and data speed benefits, so I've given up and lived with being unable to make phone calls near home unless I can see San Pablo by sight, am facing the right direction and am not moving, i exaggerate not. Please allow this AT&T cell tower to be installed and help residents like me with no other viable options to suit our needs to have a voice in improving communications for every day and emergencies for residents who live in the hills.

With thanks,  
Brendan Pritikin, residing near the Kensington Service Station (Chevron)

**Blount, Terry**

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**From:** Ken Pritikin [kwpritikin@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 06, 2012 4:04 PM  
**To:** Blount, Terry  
**Subject:** AT&T's application for cell site at 1861 Solano Avenue

We are writing in support of AT&T's application for a cell site at 1861 Solano Avenue.

We have been Berkeley residents since 1987 and have raised two children here. Both of our children have had AT&T cell phone service for many years. Our son, who is now attending college, has told us many times over the past several years that AT&T's cell coverage in Berkeley is spotty because it does not have sufficient cell site coverage in Berkeley. There have been many times when he has called us while driving in Berkeley and the cell call drops due to no signal. In this age of cell phone dependence, this is not just a convenience issue, it is a safety issue.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ken and Trisha Pritikin  
Berkeley

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OCT 31 2012

LAND USE PLANNING

Date: 31 October 2012

To: Zoning Adjustments Board  
City of Berkeley

LAND USE PLANNING

OCT 31 2012

RECEIVED

Re: Postponement of Use Permit #11-1000032, 1861 Solano Ave.  
Twelve transmitting antennas on facade of Oaks Theater

We would like to request that this hearing be postponed for one month for a number of reasons, especially the fact that the neighborhood has had only one week to review AT&T's plans.

This is an entirely new site for transmitting antennas and as you know, these are always controversial, especially for neighbors who live close to the antennas.

As such, it is appropriate for the neighborhood to have time to review the plans, talk to AT&T staff, and discuss this important change to the neighborhood and to the Oaks Theater, one of the few landmarked buildings in North Berkeley.

Instead, AT&T has scheduled their "open house" to present the plans to the neighborhood on November 1, exactly one week before the ZAB hearing, and after the date to submit comments to ZAB prior to the hearing. In addition, neighbors only received the notification of the ZAB hearing exactly two weeks prior to the hearing, and the postcard did not contain any information at all on the installation.

This could certainly be seen as an attempt to push the application through ZAB without enough time for anyone in the neighborhood to really review the plans and discuss them, or present any comments or objections to the city. This is a serious breach of the city's obligation to involve citizens in important changes to their neighborhoods.

As a result, we are requesting that the hearing be postponed one month, a reasonable request given that the actual date of submittal to the city was August 30, 2011, well over a year ago.

We were informed that that original application was rescinded in order to make design or engineering changes to the original plan, but we are not able to find them in the application on ZAB's website. For obvious reasons, we'd like to see the current plans or confirm that there have been no changes to the August 30, 2011 plans.

In the past, neighbors have raised a number of objections to antennas on this site, and because we don't have enough information right now we do not know if they are still valid. They include:

**OCT 31 2012**

**LAND USE PLANNING**

1. The city refused to grant a use permit for transmitting antennas on the building previously, and we are not aware of any changes that would now make them acceptable.
2. The Oaks Theater is currently vacant, and it is much more important to the community that the theater be rented and operate as a theater instead of using the building as a platform for transmitting antennas that produce continuous EMF radiation all day and all night, and expose everyone nearby to that radiation. As a matter of fact, during the previous application process 10 years ago, the manager of the theater made a convincing presentation to the City Council that he was not sure that the theater would even be able to survive if antennas were installed there.
3. This is essentially an industrial-size installation, and according to AT&T's analysis, would have an "effective radiated power in any direction of 5,460 watts, representing simultaneous operation at 1,780 watts for AWS, 1,700 watts for PCS, 1,090 watts for cellular, and 890 watts for 700 MHz service. Constructing a new cell phone platform on the building will require several noisy coolers and supporting machinery on the building, and will require regular servicing, but there are no plans to provide parking for service vehicles for this entirely new industrial use in this shopping neighborhood. (Note that AT&T's justification for the site is to improve reception for 3G phones when the company is actively selling and promoting the use of 4G cellular phones. This renders the site obsolete, or possibly a stealth application to supply much more radiated power than necessary.)
4. Once antennas are approved, the owner may contract with as many companies as he likes to add additional antennas without any effective oversight from the city
5. We already have many cell phone antennas in our neighborhood. The building at 1760 Solano, approximately 400 feet down the street, has multiple cell antennas owned by 3 different cell phone companies.
6. Thousand Oaks School is located 450 feet from the proposed new set of antennas on the Oaks Theater. The School is only 200 feet from the building at 1760 Solano, so all of the children at the school are exposed to EMF radiation during the entire time they are at the school, and children are much more susceptible to EMF radiation than adults.. Additional antennas on the Oaks Theater mean more exposure, up to 5,460 watts of energy as noted above, and at a different angle
7. Teenagers routinely climb onto the roof of the Oaks Theater to graffiti the building and the roof. While there they would be exposed to exceptionally high levels of radiation. Even the industry concedes that such close exposure to transmitting antennas is very dangerous, especially for the young.

8. The Oaks Theater is one of the few land-marked buildings in North Berkeley, and to construct numerous antennas and all the supporting machinery they require will ruin its historic status.

As you can see, the neighborhood has numerous concerns and it is the right thing to do to postpone this hearing one month so we can all review the current plans and discuss them with AT&T staff to determine if we support, oppose, or would like to see changes in the plans.

OCT 31 2012

Sincerely,

LAND USE PLANNING

Constance M. Sutton 877 The Alameda

Charles Lindh 840 The Alameda

Marian Silva 854 THE ALAMEDA

Ben Swiggell 865 The Alameda

George Springer 863 The Alameda

Patricia J. Springer 863 The Alameda

Ronnie Adams 860 The Alameda

Su Charlotte 838 the Alameda

Carl Starr 836 The Alameda

Mark E. [unclear] 1862 CATALINA AVE,

" " "

K. Horn

Continuation of signatures to ZAB regarding the application for cell phone antenna  
on the Oaks Theater 10/31/12:

John Bogen JOHN BOGEN 1881 Coto /ing

Ann Branstor ANN BRANSTOR 819 THE ALAMEDA

Joelle David (Joelle David) 851 The Alameda

Ch of SA 877 + 40 Alameda

Ann Sutter 877 The Alameda

Philip Yee 850 The Alameda

Helen Yee 910 Colusa #1

RECEIVED

OCT 31 2012

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