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Matthew C. Fraser
Chief Technology Officer
Office of Technology & Innovation
The NYC Office of Technology & Innovation
2 MetroTech Center, P1
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Dear Chief Technology Officer Fraser,

I am writing regarding the ongoing installation of Link NYC 5G and other 5G infrastructure across Manhattan, and to convey concerns we have with the current roll-out and process. While I fully appreciate the need to expand 5G infrastructure across New York City as more New Yorkers take advantage of the benefits of this broadband service, my office has received an outpouring of constituent concerns from across the borough.

There is no debate that we must continue to advance our city's technology infrastructure and ensure we are ready for a modern economy. 5G has the potential to revolutionize many industries, such as healthcare, education, and transportation, and can help to drive economic growth and innovation. Moreover, the buildout of 5G infrastructure can help bridge the digital divide by providing internet accessibility to thousands of New Yorkers. New York City must be a leader in bringing equitable 5G access to the public.

I also understand that the City's oversight over this infrastructure and 5G expansion is a result of franchise agreements held with various providers, and that standards including but not limited to radio frequencies are governed by the FCC.

However, many residents have reported serious concerns about the site selection, outreach, and community engagement process. Residents have reported not adequately being informed about the placement of 5G towers in their neighborhoods, and many have questioned specific site selections and the fundamental need for the new towers taking up vital public space. We must better communicate with the local community, and better educate New Yorkers about these installations.

Additionally, the design the 5G towers and infrastructure have been a source of frustration for many residents. These structures create considerable bulk on sidewalks and can negatively impact the visual appeal or even historic character of our neighborhoods. It is important that the city works with service providers to ensure that the placement and design of 5G infrastructure is carefully considered and sensitive to the aesthetic, historic, and public space concerns of the community.

In order to assuage these concerns, I am asking the City to slow the expansion of 5G infrastructure in residential areas and focus on commercial corridors until the recommendations below are fully explored:

- Review the City's overall 5G infrastructure programs, including the "Pole top" and LinkNYC programs, and develop a strategy that prioritizes installation at sites using existing public infrastructure, such as streetlights and traffic signals, and identify City-owned property, including bus stops, that can be modified or reinforced to become eligible for 5G siting. This could help

minimize the amount of public space on our sidewalks being taken by this needed infrastructure and ensure there is ample space for people on our streets.

- Work with your sister agencies to comprehensively review all city infrastructure to ensure we are fully utilizing public property, furniture and infrastructure for the advancement of our city's economy, including for electrification, sustainability, and installation of 5G infrastructure. This will require coordination between your agency, DOT, DCAS, MOCEJ, EDC, and DEP, among many others. We must ensure all agencies are working together, rather than let a siloed, piece-meal approach dictate how we use public space for various investments and advancements.
- Run a public education campaign to inform the public of the benefits and safety of 5G, including how it directly impacts their daily lives.
- Include which consumer facing service providers utilize each 5G tower in all public notifications and community board presentations, and make necessary amendments to the "Pole-top" and Link NYC franchise agreements as necessary.
- Work with industry experts to identify alternative designs that can reduce the amount of public space needed for future installations
- Work with local artists, non-profits and community-based organizations to paint and otherwise improve the overall aesthetics and reduce the visual impact of 5G towers so they contribute positively and contextually to our public spaces.

Every neighborhood in Manhattan is unique and different, but I strongly believe that we can embrace the opportunities that LinkNYC and other 5G infrastructure can bring while also balancing the needs of each community. Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to working with you in the days and weeks ahead.



Mark Levine
Manhattan Borough President