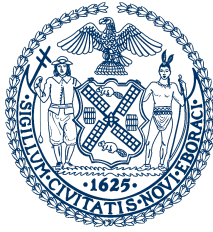


KEITH POWERS

COUNCIL MEMBER, 4TH DISTRICT

211 East 43rd Street, Suite 1205
New York, NY 10017
Tel: (212)818-0580

250 Broadway, Suite 1833
New York, NY 10007
Tel: (212)788-7393



THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF NEW YORK

MAJORITY LEADER

CHAIR

Rules, Privileges, and Elections

COMMITTEES

Finance

December 21, 2022

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

Dear Commissioner Fraser:

I write to you today to express my concerns about the current proposal for the Link 5G program in Manhattan Community Board 8 on the Upper East Side. Since being proposed, I have heard from countless constituents who are concerned with the siting of these out of scale towers in their neighborhood.

At 32-feet tall, these 5G towers are a big departure from the LinkNYC kiosks that currently line our streets. Unlike those kiosks, which replaced obsolete payphones, these towers will occupy previously unused space. Additionally, the locations proposed for many of these towers are within the Upper East Side Historic District, Expanded Carnegie Hill Historic District, or Park Avenue Historic District. For any location within a historic district, it is critical that the towers blend seamlessly with the existing architecture, which they currently do not.

It is always our goal to find harmony between the needs of the city and the need to keep our neighborhoods beautiful, but I share my constituents' concerns about installing towers in residential areas where they would surely be obtrusive. While many of the proposed locations are categorized by the Office of Technology and Innovation as commercial areas, it is clear that they exist within highly residential neighborhoods.

For these reasons, I have serious concerns about the current proposal being implemented in the residential areas of my district. As we move forward, I encourage OTI to site these towers in commercial areas where they are better suited, and work toward a design more appropriate for these areas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Powers".

Majority Leader Keith Powers
New York City Council, District 4