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CITYBRIDGE/BOLDYN 5G NETWORK TOWER

SITE: MN-08-GF0926_A

ADDRESS: 510 East 71st Street, FCC E-106 Submission EBI Project #018993-PR

CONSULTING PARTY: FRIENDS OF THE UPPER EAST SIDE, Inc.

COMMENTS: FRIENDS of the Upper East Side believes that the proposed Link5G tower installation at 510 East 71st Street will have an adverse effect on the following historic resources (*within 500 feet of the project site*):

- Hamad Bin Khalifa Biomedical Research Building
- New York Hospital-Weill Cornell Medical Center (*NRHP eligible*)
- Six-story Garage Building (*NRHP eligible*)

The 32-foot tall, chrome Link5G tower will create a “change in the character of the property’s use or setting” and introduce “incompatible visual, atmospheric, or audible elements” to Hamad Bin Khalifa Biomedical Research Building, New York Hospital-Weill Cornell Medical Center (*NRHP eligible*) and Six-story Garage Building (*NRHP eligible*). While the tower doesn’t physically damage any historic properties, it irrevocably alters the viewshed of all adjacent historic resources.

The Hamad Bin Khalifa Biomedical Research Building, located at 511-515 East 71st Street and 510-516 East 72nd Street, is a striking example of modern architecture designed by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM). This 11-story research laboratory was built in 1938 and features a glass curtain wall on its south facade. Set back from the street, this building reflects the classic International Style, reminiscent of SOM's early work, such as the Chase Manhattan and Marine Midland buildings. It qualifies for designation under Criteria for Evaluation, Criterion C: embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possesses high artistic values. The proposed pole would be located diagonally from the primary façade of the building and would be visible.

The goal of the Link 5G rollout, as presented to the public through various platforms, was to target underserved communities and bridge the digital divide, providing wireless and cellular services to those areas of the city. The decision to place this tower in a cluster of medical buildings, such as Weill Cornell Medical



Center (which offers free Wi-Fi access to guests), Hospital for Special Surgery, and art auction house Sotheby's, and Belaire Condo building other amenities seems questionable. This suggests the tower's location may not be where it's most needed in the city.

The Link5G tower design is out of scale and out of place in the vicinity of any historic resource. As the Link5G network will one day consist of over 2,000 of these towers, there will be a significant increase in the cumulative adverse effect of these towers on historic districts and landmark buildings. There are dozens of more appropriate design solutions for building out 5G connectivity infrastructure that have been successfully employed in other cities. The same goal of broadening access to 5G could easily be achieved through less obtrusive interventions.

Zeynep Turan
Manager of Preservation and Outreach
FRIENDS of the Upper East Side