

Borough of Cliffside Park



MAYOR
THOMAS CALABRESE

May 17, 2021

Homeowners and Residents of Cliffside Park,

The revolutionary age of 5G Ultra Wideband technology has arrived.

In the coming months, millions of people across the United State will have incredibly improved cellular phone communicative capabilities. Network gigabit speeds will be faster than the blink of an eye while allowing networks to handle 100 times more devices with no service interruptions to customers.

People attending larger outdoor events, including at MetLife Stadium, will be able to text and send photos to friends and family without the dreaded failure to send messages appearing. People will be able to view 4K movies and other media with greater clarity and also chat with family and friends in HD.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and higher-ranking public officials nationwide, including Gov. Phil Murphy, have welcomed the new technology with open arms. It will vastly improve cellular communications for first responders, accommodate people working remotely in homes, and improve the overall communicative capabilities of businesses statewide.

But with this positive news also comes messy aesthetic repercussions that will impact local residents and millions of people living in suburban communities across the country.

As a result, I want to explain exactly what you should expect.

Unlike its 4G predecessor, which relied mainly on operational equipment being scattered atop large buildings and rooftops, this highly advanced technology is primitive in one regard. It requires that millions of individual antennas be placed on utility poles located on public right of way properties across the country. That includes the poles scattered across Cliffside Park. In some instances, new poles will also be added to ensure optimum 5G Ultrawide signals.

The situation is similar to when PSE&G was mandated by the state about a decade ago to use renewable energy to provide more than 20 percent of its output. It did so by attaching unattractive 3x5 solar panels on about 200,000 utility poles, including hundreds in Cliffside Park.

Today, Verizon, AT&T, and other telecommunications companies will be attaching an antenna about 3 feet high atop the poles while also adding three other panel antennas onto them.

Unfortunately, despite vigorous legal battles waged across the country, municipalities like Cliffside Park are unable to either curtail or modify the upcoming work.

That's because, in June 2020, the Federal Communications Commission approved these so-called cell tower upgrades, effectively overruling local communities and counties fighting to stop it. The roadmap for those future upgrades was approved by law by the US Congress in 2012 and earlier under the 1996 Telecommunications Act.

In August 2020, the US Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the major portions of the FCC's plans, ruling against the city of Portland which challenged it on behalf of tens of thousands of communities like Cliffside Park. The ruling acknowledged that it was made despite resistance from "*local governments unhappy with the proliferation of cell towers and other 5G transmission facilities dotting our urban landscape.*"

Now, though we are being legally coerced into accepting this new reality, we have taken crucial steps needed to ensure the new 5G Ultra Wideband work is as seamless as possible without further disrupting your quality of life. Our legal team has carefully reviewed all land-use procedures applicable to the small cell installations. And have ensured that utility companies will not narrow sidewalks, impact handicapped ramps, or otherwise impose any safety hazards for our residents.

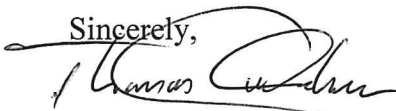
Tax revenues will also be generated by the required \$1,000 permits and \$270 annual fees for each small cell tower.

For those of you who might be frustrated about the need to speak out, you may contact the FCC's Consumer Complaint Center at their website at <https://consumercomplaints.fcc.gov/hc/en-us>.

And if you encounter any issues with work being performed, please contact the borough construction official at 201-313-2042.

Thanks for your patience and understanding, and I am hopeful that the 5G Ultra Wideband services will ultimately offset any discomfort you might feel over the utility work.

Sincerely,



Mayor Tom Calabrese