

Commissioners,

My name is Kim Lindsey (Watkins) and I own 4364 Rocky Ford Road, just 400 to 500 feet from the proposed cell tower site. It is disappointing to have had only a couple days' notice, but I appreciate the opportunity to offer my concerns.

I want to be clear — I understand the importance of reliable cell service and the land owner's financial enticement to lease or provide land for such this purpose. But it is a fact the financial loss of others in the area will be far greater than the gain of one. Also, the question before us is not whether we need cell coverage; it's where and how towers should be placed so they serve the community without harming the neighborhoods that make Valdosta such a desirable, quiet, peaceful place to live. Placing a cell tower of questionable height and design within 400-500 feet of my home will have serious negative impacts.

1. Property values. Independent research backs this up. One 2019 study from Savannah, Georgia, found that homes located near cell towers lost up to 7.6% of their resale value. For families like mine, that represents tens of thousands of dollars in lost equity. And this is not just about my property — it affects the entire neighborhood and ultimately reduces the county's tax base. It is a fact having a cell tower in your neighborhood WILL bring many unnecessary challenges to your property value such as potential buyer pool will be reduced by the sight of a cell tower.

2. Compatibility with the neighborhood. This would be a large, ugly industrial structure being placed in a residential/agricultural setting. A tower of this scale is not in harmony with the character of Rocky Ford Road. It will be highly visible, altering the rural and residential feel that drew many of us here in the first place.

3. Safety and precedent. Towers of this size can fail during severe weather, and they spread debris as with the hurricane just last year. At only 400 to 500 feet from homes, this creates unnecessary risk. And if this tower is approved, it sets a precedent that could bring more intrusive infrastructure closer and closer to residential neighborhoods across Valdosta.

4. Health concerns. There are many concerns of potential health issues especially if there is consistent exposure to the tower frequencies that can pulse higher at times. This is topic is highly controversial with too much evidence to bring to this hearing. It reminds me of when my mom was a youth. She was told smoking was a way to make you feel better, that turned out to be beneficial to big tobacco but not the many people who were lied to.

We know now there is no safe level of smoking, as we may learn and prove the level of frequency or distance of foot from a cell may be adjusted for safety and other reasons. The companies currently deem a "safe level of exposure". This could be fluid as more and more related long-term health concerns arise. I am not debating the health concerns at this time, just the potential or idea of harm is certainly there.

5. Noise can travel ¼ mile from the source. Especially with the lake behind the area, I am sure there will be more amplification. Noise from cell towers comes from cooling units, backup generators, and sometimes malfunctioning equipment. The associated equipment, often housed in a shelter at the base of the tower, requires power and cooling. Failures in equipment can cause loud alarming, buzzing, humming, or high-pitched sounds. This would be a highly offensive direct view that