



February 24, 2020

Dear Village of Western Springs residents and neighbors:

On Thursday, February 13, 2020, the Village hosted a Town Hall meeting regarding 5G-small cell technology. More than 100 people came out to the Lyons Township South High School Corral to learn more about this issue. I opened the meeting stating that the purpose of the evening's gathering was to provide information and answer questions from the community about the potential 5G rollout. It is important to note that those who have the most answers—the wireless companies—declined my invitation to attend, thereby denying residents the opportunity to have their questions answered.

Below you will find a summary of the presentations that were given during the meeting. The PowerPoint slide presentation, and more information about 5G is available on the Village website at www.wsprings.com/5G.

Village Manager Ingrid Velkme thanked various elected officials and dignitaries for attending, including (but not limited to):

Sen. Suzy Glowiak-Hilton; Village of Western Springs Trustees Heidi Rudolph, James Tyrrell, Nicole Chen, Bill Siffermann. Jaclyn O'Day (from Cong. Lipinski's office); Anthony Dubicki (from Rep. Durkin's office); Mary Cisneros (from Rep. Mazzochi's office); Clarendon Hills President Len Austin and Village Manager Kevin Barr; La Grange Village Manager Andrianna Peterson and Trustee Beth Augustine; LaGrange Park Village Manager Julia Cedillo, and Trustee Bob Lautner; Riverside Village Manager Jessica Frances and Trustee Cristin Evans; Hinsdale Village President Thomas Cauley; Executive Director of the West Central Municipal Conference Rich Pellegrino; Superintendent of Dist. 204, Dr. Adrian Talley. Rep. Mazzochi joined after the meeting was underway.

The evening consisted of several presentations. Highlights included:

- Evolution of 5G: Western Springs Director of Community Development Martin Scott talked through the growth of technology over the years, showing sample photos of potential small cell sites.
- Challenges Facing Local Governments: James Rhodes, from KTJ Law, explained the Federal Communications Act of 1934, and that local governments do not have the ability to regulate frequencies as long as they abide by national Commission regulations.

- Presidential Directive in 2018: Village Attorney Michael Jurusik explained that the 5G rollout is a national priority. President Trump has issued a directive stating that small cell/5G will help the country meet goals now, and in future.
- IL Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act: Attorney Jurusik went on to explain how this State Act further limits municipalities' control and options over the siting and number of small cell wireless facilities.

The evening continued with a Village update:

- The Village is drafting amendments to current legislation, and is proposing new legislation for the state.
- The Village has limited infrastructure with regards to potential placement of small cell sites. For example, the Village doesn't have streetlights on every street for the placement of 5G antennae and equipment
- FCC regulations have no radiofrequency (RF) reporting provisions or disclosure - they have RF standards, but no compliance protocol. The Village is seeking to build radiofrequency standards, reporting, and compliance controls into state law and Village code.

Sen. Suzy Glowiak-Hilton then addressed the group:

- Sen. Glowiak-Hilton plans to establish a Taskforce of bipartisan lawmakers, a representative from the Dep. of innovation and Tech, an independent expert, and a representative from the IL Dept. of Public Health.
- She has introduced legislation, upon request from DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference, which would amend SB 1451 to allow municipalities to have more control over where the towers are placed, especially in historic neighborhoods. And, under her amendments, if there's no existing infrastructure, a municipality could reject the installation.
- On Tuesday, February 18 in Springfield, Sen. Glowiak-Hilton hosted a subject matter hearing on 5G technology, with the Senate Public Health Committee. At this hearing, invited experts continued the discussion on 5G issues.

Jaclyn O'Day, Deputy Chief of Staff to Congressman Lipinski, addressed the group:

- Ms O'Day reported that Rep. Lipinski met with a group of concerned citizens and penned a letter to FCC about their concerns. He requested the research studies the FCC used to determine the 1996 limits/regulations to frequency exposure.
- She went on to say we need to dive into the FCC information. Their office is committed to pushing the FCC to get answers to this. She added that the FCC has come to Lipinski's office, and they are taking concerns seriously.

Rep. Mazzochi then addressed the group:

- While Rep Mazzochi was not in office when SB 1451 was voted on, her biggest concern is the lack of authority to regulate 5G rollouts at the state level, as compared to the federal level.
- She introduced a bill to give some control back to local municipalities, and encouraged residents to file witness slips and send emails to say they support her bill. This can be done by going to her website: <https://repmazzochi.com/>

Moira Zellner, a representative from Stop 5G Western Springs, addressed the group:

- Ms Zellner stated that her group is not against progress, jobs, or technology, but that they don't believe 5G technology is safe, and that we should not rely on data from industry "experts". She reported that in terms of data, fiber optic is a better technology for health, safety, and property values.
- She continued to say that we should be given back our basic right to choose technology for ourselves. It's the basic tenant of a democracy. She added that there is no more business as usual. She urged legislators and the industry to work "with us, not against us."

Marla Mangone, a representative from Stop 5G Hinsdale, addressed the group:

- Ms Mangone reported that she was once told by an elected official, 'We do not want stupid people getting in the way of 5G deployment,' and continued to say she knows that our Trustees and residents have the best interests of the Village in mind.
- She added that our representatives must not forget that they represent us: not the telecom industries and their lobbyists.

Atty. Jurusik continued the evening by addressing pre-submitted questions, which was followed by public comment. The vast majority of questions were technical in nature and Mr. Jurusik reported that they were being sent to the appropriate parties for answers, like the telecommunications providers, the Tollway, Metra, and ComEd.

Finally, we heard statements and questions from those in attendance about issues pertaining to 5G. The theme continued to be one of concern for health, safety, aesthetics, increased municipal control, and revisions to state and federal legislation.

Again, please see the Village's website for the complete PowerPoint slide presentation, and more information about 5G, at www.wsprings.com/5G.

Sincerely,



Alice Gallagher,
Village President