

October 5, 2020
BOCC – Work Session Citizen Comments

Comment 1: Faith Holsaert

Like many other Durham residents, we have been troubled by the report of dysfunction in the Durham County Commission, especially during this time of multiple crises. We hope the Commission can make progress in an honest reckoning and resolution of these conflicts. Allegations of racist behavior by a white female County Commissioner were made by a County employee who is a Black male. This led to a formal investigation concluding that the behavior was not motivated by racial bias but could reasonably have been perceived as biased or disrespectful in an environment lacking "trust and meaningful communications." The response by Commissioner Heidi Carter introduced the idea that her concerns had been trivialized because she is a woman.

As older white women with long histories of feminist, anti-racist, and social justice activism, we were disturbed by and wish to comment on Commissioner Carter's statement. In this instance, the Investigator's report was specific to the charge of racially discriminatory behavior. Misogyny was not the issue being examined or the subject of any formal complaint. Allegations of racism by an employee must be taken seriously and should not be an occasion for those in the role of employer to divert the discussion or personalize the issue.

We were deeply offended by the use of feminism in Commissioner Carter's statement. She states that "Women who are advocating for their priorities and principles do not need to be controlled or moderated, and the degree to which these sexist undertones continue to permeate our conversations is disturbing." Most interactions in our society have sexist undertones, and we also find that unacceptable. We cannot comment on conversations we did not witness, but we believe the complaint about sexism in response to an investigation of racism functions as a dodge against the original complaint.

When these types of conflicts develop, they offer the opportunity to uproot, lay bare, and transform many kinds of hurtful attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors. For the sake of progress and healing in Durham, we hope that a process can take place to establish greater trust, respect, and accountability for the Commission's important work and as a model for a community coping with daunting challenges.

Comment 2: Deryll Ewell

The intent of the following comments is to draw attention to my concerns about the 5G technology and the possible harmful effects on children. Because of their small body size, they are much more vulnerable to radiation exposure. There are many studies available on this issue. The Children's Health Defense Team, headed by Attorney Robert Kennedy Jr. has published on their site, that thousands of studies, including US Government and US Military studies provide unequivocal evidence, that the radiation emitted by wireless devices are extremely harmful to children.

This radiation can have effects, such as; decreased learning ability, problems with memory and cognitive function, sleep disorder, headache, auditory effects, nosebleeds, heart palpitations and anxiety. Radiation exposure can also pose a danger to the body's DNA, reproductive system

and be a risk factor in cancer, tumor growth and breaks in the blood brain barrier. There are a good number of countries around the world, also cities and towns in the United States, that have banned or are in the process of getting 5G banned. Our children are too precious, for us to be careless or too ready to allow installation of the 5G towers, to be put into our neighborhoods!

I believe, it is all of our most important responsibility to be most diligent in the protection and securing the safety and wellbeing of our county's children. I am the grandmother of 7 year-old Zyaire who is a student at, The Central Park School, in Durham. For the love of him and all the other Durham County children, I ask this board, for your consideration on this crucial issue.

Comment 3: Tina Motley-Pearson

AS a concerned citizen and mother, I am concerned about the potential health implications caused by the roll out of 5G in Durham. There are numerous scientific studies stating the adverse effects of wireless radiation affecting brain development, learning and attention spans, behavior and mood, and fertility. Wireless radiation affects our bodies at the cellular level, even breaking down DNA. Although many individuals are affected, children are most at risk. Children's skulls are smaller and thinner, thus they absorb up to 10 x more radiation than adults. Radiation from cell towers in close proximity of schools have been blamed for an increase in childhood cancers. Here is a link to one case in California:

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/cell-tower-shut-down-some-california-parents-link-to-several-cases-of-childhood-cancer/>

I just used antenna search <http://www.antennasearch.com/> to check out the number of towers and antennas in a 3 mile radius of my home. In the beginning of June 2020, there were 10 towers and 11 antennas. Today, there are 35 towers and 68 antennas! How many antennas and towers are being erected during the lockdown in other areas? Small cell facilities (5G) are the types of antennas going up everywhere. When I called the planning department, I was told that they are only put in public places, however take into consideration that there is a 25 foot right of way from the middle of the road, which means they can put these in front of your house.

To put this in perspective, 4G wavelengths have a range of about 10 miles. 5G wavelengths have a range of about 1,000 feet....not even 2% pf 4G's range. Can you imagine HOW MANY 5G antennas will be put up? They will literally be everywhere with NO safety studies.

In the United States the state of New Hampshire has a 5G Bill [HB 522](#) that asks, "Why have 1,000s of peer-reviewed studies, including the recently published U.S. Toxicology Program 16-year \$30 million study, that are showing a wide range of statistically significant DNA damage, brain and heart tumors, infertility, and so many other ailments, being ignored by the Federal Communication Commission (FCC)?" and, "Why have more than 220 of the worlds leading scientists signed an appeal to the WHO and the United Nations to protect public health from wireless radiation and nothing has been done?"

Here are just a few success stories, but you can see a much more extensive list here: <https://ehtrust.org/international-actions-to-halt-and-delay-5g/>

- In Italy, over [500 municipalities](#) have passed resolutions to halt 5G and Switzerland has refused to weaken their radiofrequency radiation limits to deploy 5G.
- The Hawaii County planning board passed a resolution to halt 5G ([PDF of Resolution, testimony](#).)
- New Hampshire passed [Bill HB 522](#) to create a Commission to investigate the environmental and human health impacts of 5G. [Full Bill Text, Minutes, Documents](#). The state of Oregon has passed [SB 283](#) “A bill relating to exposure to radiation in schools in this state; and declaring an emergency.”
- Farragut Tennessee Resolution calling on state and federal governments to halt 5G until health risks are evaluated. [PDF of Resolution](#)
- The Washington DC Advisory 3/4G Committee Resolution [“Opposing Small Cell Wireless and 5G Technology Without Studies Confirming Safety”](#).

Dr. Larry Burk and I made a short video about 5G [5 Minutes on 5G in Durham](#):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wN82NcQ_DAw

Please consider halting the roll out of 5G since there are no safety studies. This is also a civil rights issue since there is no way to protect yourself against the onslaught of radiation.

Comment 4: Larry Burk

How is the County addressing concerns of citizens regarding the health, economic and environmental hazards related to the rollout of 5G small cell transmitters in Durham? Please see the short 5-minute introductory video below and questions linked to relevant resources