



January 17, 2019

**RE: Verizon Cellular Tower at SE Division and SE 25th**

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

The Hosford-Abernethy Neighborhood District (HAND) Association board is concerned with the neighborhood communication process for the new cellular tower installed at the corner of SE 25th Avenue and SE Division St. We believe the rules for contacting property owners and the neighborhood association were not followed, and we want an investigation of what happened, appropriate sanctions to be imposed on Verizon, and procedures established to ensure it does not happen again.

The tower in question was constructed in the public right-of-way on a Priority 4 street, so the pre-application process required wireless carriers to contact property owners within 400 feet of the installation, as well as the local neighborhood association, neighborhood coalition, and business association. HAND received no notice of any pre-application process or any associated meetings regarding the cell tower. We have been contacted by neighbors who were also not notified. They expressed alarm about the scale and appearance of the new structure. The attached photo illustrates this with respect to the surrounding area.

We believe the lack of required notice and outreach was a major oversight on the part of the carrier (Verizon) with regards to neighborhood review of their installation. We are requesting that Verizon be held legally and financially responsible for their failure to follow simple procedures set forth by the city (in effect, breaking the law). This includes, but is not limited to, removal or modification of the tower based on the Division Design Guidelines. Inaction in this matter would set a precedent for other entities wishing to circumvent the design guidelines and neighborhood outreach protocols that shape and define Portland.

Moving forward, we recommend that further public ROW pre-application notices be sent out by the Office for Community Technology on official letterhead. This would include a clearly stated notice on the envelope to alert the recipient to the nature of its contents. We believe that if letters are sent by the Office, they will be more likely to reach affected neighbors than if they are sent by tower developers.

We thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Chris Eykamp  
Chair, Hosford-Abernethy Neighborhood District

to Mayor Ted Wheeler  
to Chris Warner, Portland Bureau of Transportation  
cc Commissioner Eudaly  
cc Commissioner Fish  
cc Commissioner Fritz  
cc Commissioner Hardesty  
cc Tracy Reeve, City Attorney  
cc Molly Mayo, SE Uplift  
cc Suk Rhee, Office of Community and Civic Life  
cc Julie S. Omelchuck, Office for Community Technology  
cc Jennifer Li, Office for Community Technology

