

My name is Katherine Katzin. Thank you for all you are doing to sustain county residents during this pandemic and thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak tonight. I am here today to ask the County Council to fund an education campaign on how residents can reduce their exposure to radiofrequency emissions.

Thousands of peer-reviewed studies have documented the adverse health effects of exposure to radiofrequency microwave radiation from cell towers, cell phones, and Wi-Fi including neurologic effects such as sleep impairments, learning and memory problems, dementia, and tinnitus; cardiac and blood pressure effects; endocrine and immune effects; genotoxicity; and cancer. ^{1, 2}

In fact, Montgomery County sued the FCC over their lack of response to the county's request to update the FCC standards for RF emissions.

In January 2021, "A federal appeals panel in Washington voiced skepticism that the Federal Communications Commission had adequately considered dangerous health effects when it established guidelines for radiation emission from cell towers and wireless devices..."³

In 2018 NIH's National Toxicology Program found an unusual cancer called schwannoma in the hearts of male rats exposed to cell phone radiofrequency radiation.⁴ Researchers with the renowned Ramazzini Institute (RI) in Italy found that lab animals exposed to environmental levels of cell tower radiation developed cancers including malignant brain (glial) tumors and precancerous conditions including Schwann cells.⁵

While this may be news to many people, it is not news to insurance companies, who are not willing to take the risk of covering non-ionizing electromagnetic fields because of the well-documented adverse health effects.⁶

Other countries including France, French Polynesia, and Cyprus have taken steps to ban Wi-Fi in kindergarten classrooms and to restrict its use in elementary schools. Furthermore, EU Resolution 1815 recommends wired, not Wi-Fi internet access in schools.⁷

Closer to home the Children's Environmental Health & Protection Advisory Council of the Maryland Department of the Environment recommend turning off Wi-Fi, using wires and cable to connect to the internet, and keeping devices away from the body.⁸

Please fund a campaign to educate Montgomery County residents about how they can reduce their exposure to radiofrequency emissions.

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