

My name is Elena Katzin. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak tonight. I am here today to ask the County Council to fund testing of the radiofrequency emissions at MCPS schools that have cell towers next to them.

This is a social justice issue because the 12 MCPS schools with cell towers by them are almost all lower income schools, and every high school in the Downcounty Consortium has a tower.

Children's skulls are softer and thinner and have more fluid content than those of adults. The human brain is still developing into the mid-twenties. In 2013 The World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer detailed research showing how "the average RF energy deposition is twice as high in certain regions of children's brains and up to 10 times higher in the bone marrow of children's skulls, compared to energy deposition in adult brains and skulls." The radiation is absorbed more deeply into children's brains and therefore, children need greater protections in place. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). (2013, April). "The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) Monograph1 (volume 102) for Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields (RF-EMF)". Retrieved from https://www.gsma.com/publicpolicy/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/GSMA_IARCreport_A4_WEB2.pdf.

On December 12, 2012, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) sent a letter to the FCC urging it to open a formal inquiry into radiation standards for cell phones and other wireless products because children are disproportionately impacted by all environmental exposures, including cell phone radiation. American Academy of Pediatrics. (2012, December 12). "The American Academy of Pediatrics Has Long Called For Federal Action on Wireless Devices". Retrieved from <http://safetechforschoolsmaryland.blogspot.com/2015/10/the-american-academy-of-pediatrics-has.html>

According to the 2018 study "Mobile Phone Base Station Tower Settings Adjacent to School Buildings: Impact on Students' Cognitive Health" schools with nearby cell towers had significant declines in cognitive scores

when the radiation from the cell tower was higher but still at non-thermal levels. American Journal of Men's Health. December 7, 2018.

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1557988318816914>

The 2019 study, "Limiting Liability with Positioning to Minimize Negative Health Effects of Cellular Phone Towers" recommends limiting liability by locating base stations (towers) at least 1,600 feet away from schools.

Pearce M. Environmental Research, Nov 2019;

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0013935119306425>

Additionally, the International Association of Fire Fighters opposes Cell Towers at Fire Stations because of the well-documented adverse health effects. <https://www.iaff.org/cell-tower-radiation/>

Please fund RF testing in the MCPS schools that have cell towers next to them. Thank you.