

## NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ACTION

**RE:** 575 WHITNEY AVENUE, Special Permit for Additions to Existing Telecommunications Facility  
(Owner: Church of the Redeemer; Applicant: Sprint Nextel Corporation).  
**REPORT:** 1438-03  
**ACTION:** Approval with Conditions

### BACKGROUND

Sprint Nextel seeks a Special Permit for additions to an Existing Telecommunications Facility. A previous applicant, Pocket Communications, installed three antennas in the lower portion of the steeple and a small GPS unit on a non-street facing portion of the steeple (CPC 1426-12). The equipment cabinet was placed on a concrete pad inside the steeple as well.

Sprint is proposing to replace and upgrade its equipment. There is a Building Permit for the existing installation (BP: 2004-0751), but not a Special Permit as would have been required. This application cleans up that oversight.

### PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

The roof plan shows Sprint will replace six antennas and add two microwave antennas to its location behind screening at the top of the steeple. A GPS antenna and one equipment cabinet will be located on the existing concrete pad behind the church and out of public view.

The existing screening is effective because the street level photo accompanying this report does not show evidence of any telecommunications equipment. In fact, staff to the Commission was unaware these antennas existed during the site visit. The supplied photosims confirm the effectiveness of the screening. The overhead April 2009 aerial shows the location of the existing equipment pad behind the church, out of public view.

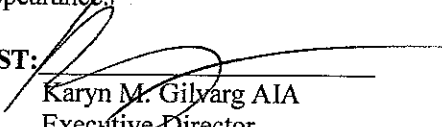
Church of the Redeemer is located inside the Whitney Avenue National Register Historic District as a noncontributing structure. Nevertheless it is a Colonial Revival dating from 1950. The district is generally described as having a mixture of one and two family houses set on small rectangular lots. Stylistically, most of the houses are Colonial Revival or Queen Anne or variations thereof. Apartment buildings, offices and some institutions are scattered about.

### ACTION

The Commission notes the current installation is undetectable. The proposed replacement antennas will be placed behind the same effective screens. The support equipment will locate behind the building, out of sight from the public right-of-way. For these reasons the Commission approves the request with conditions.

1. Approval is for the replacement of six antennas and the addition of two microwave antennas in the steeple, and the installation of one GPS antenna and a new cabinet behind the building, all as shown on the submitted site plans.
2. An original signed copy of this decision/report shall be recorded on the City's Land Records. Proof of such recording (volume and page number) shall be provided to the City Plan Department, prior to issuance of permit for installation.
1. All antennas shall be screened in accordance with the submitted proposal.
2. There shall be no advertising of any sort allowed on any Wireless Telecommunications Facility visible to the public.
3. Sprint Nextel shall submit to the Zoning Administrator annually during the month of January an affidavit that the facility is in active use as a wireless site and shall certify that such use will continue for the coming calendar year.
4. If this wireless site becomes inactive for six consecutive months in any calendar year or part of any calendar year, the service facility owner shall remove it. This removal shall occur within ninety days of the end of such six-month period. Upon removal the site shall be restored to its previous appearance.

**ADOPTED:** March 17, 2010  
Edward Mattison  
Chair

**ATTEST:**   
Karyn M. Gilvarg AIA  
Executive Director