

I support more access to unlicensed spectrum for both high power and low power mobile devices. Currently, New York City has begun to privatize our lamp posts by leasing them to telecom companies for 15-year terms in order to improve coverage and generate profit for the city. However, this privatization ignores the multiple progressive uses of unlicensed spectrum for the public interest. These include community projects which improve access to education, foster the arts, and develop neighborhoods economically and socially. I am aware of a number of such projects including the NYCwireless Community Access project that I wrote about in my 12/03 Gotham Gazette column (<http://www.gothamgazette.com/article/Tech/20031223/19/814>) and a live public video conference between New York and Budapest that I wrote about in my 8/04 column (<http://www.gothamgazette.com/article/tech/20040827/19/1096>). I have been following this issue for the past several years as a doctoral student in Communications at Columbia University and believe that these projects are just the beginning. I am working to evaluate and document the importance of unlicensed spectrum for both high-power and low-power mobile devices. I endorse the position of organizations such as NYCwireless (of which I am a member) and the New America Foundation and believe that the adoption of policies which support and encourage community wireless networks and mesh networks are vital for our country and the vibrancy of our communities. I also support strong privacy protection for our citizens especially when this issue becomes relevant to mobile and wireless location-aware devices except in cases of emergency.