

1 down feeling of what is really right here. There will always be something bigger,  
2 better and faster but does that mean that we have a king kong tower in five  
3 years, ten years? When will human life ever fit into the picture. You know  
4 there's a lot of mountains in Colorado and I am sure there's a place for a super  
5 tower. It's just not Lookout Mountain. I would be more than happy to help find  
6 that mountain, but really let's be honest here. We do have options so let's  
7 choose the one where questions don't have to be answered. Let's start thinking  
8 with our hearts not with just our heads. So, now we the parents of this  
9 community are looking to you, our Elected Officials, to make the right choice for  
10 our community and to be our childrens' guardian angels. Thank you.

11 HOLLOWAY: Now is it Karen?

12 CARNEY: Yes it is. Karen Barker.

13 BARKER: I am Karen Barker, the parent of a first grader at  
14 Ralston Elementary. I live at 2349 Bitterroot Lane. That is in Genesee. This  
15 also is a very, very difficult issue for me because not only am I a parent of a first  
16 grader but I am also a former television news broadcaster or reporter. I worked  
17 for Channel 4 and with Jim MacDermott to my left for whom I have the greatest  
18 respect. I specialize in covering educational issues and quite frankly never  
19 before have I come across an issue that has mobilized a school community  
20 outside of the tragedy in Columbine as this particular issue has done. Ralston  
21 and we parents have got a very major problem if this super tower is built. As  
22 you know this school is exemplary, in part because of the incredible community  
23 support that it receives. We believe that Ralston is the essence of what a

1 neighborhood school should be. For decades this school has been an attraction  
2 for future homebuyers, it's been really like a magnet. I think this school has not  
3 only impacted property values but it has certainly been an easy attraction for  
4 realtors because of what this school offers and because of what this community  
5 has put into it. In the past history of Ralston there have been very very few  
6 issues that would prompt a parent to remove his child from this exemplary  
7 school until now. Erecting this super tower and the HDTV equipment that goes  
8 with it threatens the future of this school and will split up this community. And  
9 I'm going to tell you why we believe this. A couple of months ago parent  
10 volunteers conducted a telephone survey of 206 Ralston parents. That's just  
11 about the total population. Shockingly, nearly half said they would consider  
12 putting their children in other schools if the super tower was erected. The  
13 questionnaire, which we have entered for the record was written by Louise  
14 Lillianthahl, a parent with a masters in Public Health. The results were analyzed  
15 and interpreted by Bill Aster, a retired Colorado School of Mines statistics  
16 professor. An attempt was made to contact every, nearly every Ralston parent.  
17 This included Lookout Mountain preschool, which feeds into Ralston. Ralston's  
18 enrollment is 415 and this excludes sixth graders who of course will be moving  
19 onto Bell. We received nearly a 66% response rate and here are the results.  
20 Nearly all, 91% of the parents believe the proposed super tower poses a threat  
21 to their children's health. In fact over 2/3 felt that it was a considerable or  
22 extreme threat. About half or 52% of the parents said the proposed super tower  
23 had influenced their decision regarding enrolling their children in Ralston. Of

1 those parents about 3/4 of the Ralston area families have considered sending  
2 their children to other schools. This means a potential of 166 children could be  
3 disenrolled or never enrolled if parents follow through with their concerns. And  
4 what this means is that parents will be put in the impossible situation of choosing  
5 between exposing their children to possible health risks or leaving their beloved  
6 and devoted neighborhood school to which they are loyal. That kind of exodus  
7 from Ralston would be devastating to the families, disrupting to the children and  
8 could destabilize our community. Don't ship our kids out. Don't force us to live  
9 in danger and uncertainty. There will be an additional impact. It goes beyond  
10 just Ralston. Other elementary schools close by, Shelton, Mitchell, Kyffin and  
11 Bergen Park are already at full capacity. The last thing that they need is nearly  
12 200 kids knocking at their doors requesting admission. Even some Ralston staff  
13 members have privately said that they would prefer not to spend so many hours  
14 working in an environment with this kind radiation and unknown consequences.  
15 Voluntary transfers might also be expected. Clearly this survey that you have  
16 before you is one of the most significant indicators that we have as to how  
17 seriously the Ralston community is taking the super tower proposal. Parent,  
18 after parent, after parent including myself are waiting for your decision so that  
19 we can make ours. Abandoning Ralston would be a very difficult and painful  
20 thing to do. Don't make us do it.

21 CARNEY: If we could hold our applause we have many, many  
22 witnesses. Roberta Bolton you have a child with a birthday. We were going to  
23 take you out of order. Are you here?

1 HOLLOWAY: Karen, we have a question for you if you  
2 would come on up? Would you please refrain from clapping and noise because  
3 we need to get on, we need to just get the testimony and that's what we are  
4 really here for, so that...we'd appreciate it, it doesn't help us at all. So, Rick?

5 BARKER: Yes, Richard?

6 SHEEHAN: Karen, thank you. I don't have a copy of the actual  
7 survey in front of me. I do have your notes that you just got through speaking  
8 about. You said that there's this threat for people who wanted to move if the  
9 towers were built. Have you got any statistics?

10 BARKER: Not necessarily move, but enroll their children some  
11 where else and there's a real distinction there.

12 SHEEHAN: Okay. Are there any statistics or surveys that show  
13 people that in fact have moved or will be moving shortly as a result of these  
14 towers, even the ones in place?

15 BARKER: No. I think that would be a very good one to do. We  
16 may very well want to do a follow-up to that. Thanks for that suggestion.

17 SHEEHAN: Okay.

18 HOLLOWAY: For those of you who are standing there's probably,  
19 there are some empty seats throughout here if you'd like to sit.

20 BOLTON: My name is Roberta Bolton and I have resided at  
21 1713 Utah Street in Jefferson County for the last 12 and 1/2 years.

22 HOLLOWAY: Okay, now where? Oh, you're clear down here.  
23 Okay. B-O-L-T-O-N?