

PUBLIC HEARING

DRAFT GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

TOWN OF MONROE/VILLAGE OF KIRYAS JOEL

507-ACRE ANNEXATION PETITION

AND

164-ACRE ANNEXATION PETITION

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June 10, 2015  
7:10 p.m.  
5 Israel Zupnick Drive  
Monroe, New York 10950

HARLEY DOLES, Moderator

FREDERICK WELLS, RLA, Tim Miller Associates

STEVEN BARSHOV, ESQ., Attorney for the Petitioners

MICHELLE L. CONERO  
Court Reporter

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2 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Good evening,  
3 ladies and gentlemen. My name is Harley  
4 Doles, I'm the Supervisor for the Town of  
5 Monroe.

6 Before we begin, if we would all rise  
7 for the Pledge of Allegiance. And please  
8 remain standing for silence -- for a moment  
9 of silence for our brave men and women in the  
10 Service.

11 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

12 THE PUBLIC: For all.

13 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Those are  
14 marvelous words, and I think we all agree,  
15 with liberty and justice for all.

16 We're here this evening representing,  
17 in the Town of Monroe, approximately 50,000  
18 people. We are the smallest municipality in  
19 Orange County. We're also the greatest  
20 municipality in Orange County. Despite some  
21 of the differences, at the end of the day, at  
22 the end of this examination of the DGIS and  
23 everything else, we will come out of it  
24 stronger and better for it. That much I  
25 know.

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2           There are certain procedures that we  
3           have to follow. One of them is to adopt a  
4           Chair for this evening. I believe the Boards  
5           have agreed that I would be Chair, but we  
6           need to formalize that in the form of a  
7           motion.

8           THE PUBLIC: We can't hear you. Speak  
9           in the mic.

10          BOARD MEMBER: Testing, testing. Now  
11          you're in for it. Good evening, folks. For  
12          tonight we need a presiding officer, so I'm  
13          going to make a motion that we select Harley  
14          Doles, our Town Supervisor, to be the  
15          presiding officer for tonight. And I'll need  
16          a second.

17          BOARD MEMBER: All right, I'll second.

18          SUPERVISOR DOLES: All those in favor?

19          (All Members votes aye.)

20          SUPERVISOR DOLES: Any opposed?

21          THE PUBLIC: Yes.

22          SUPERVISOR DOLES: Any voting Members  
23          opposed?

24          (No response.)

25          SUPERVISOR DOLES: Okay. So let us

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2 begin. Ladies and gentlemen, I will keep it  
3 brief because we have a lot of speakers here and  
4 we have a lot of work to do.

5 Good evening. I'm Harley Doles, the  
6 Supervisor of the Town of Monroe. I sit here  
7 tonight along with the Members of the Town Board  
8 and with the Members of the Village Board for the  
9 Village of Kiryas Joel. We meet jointly, as  
10 required by law, to consider two annexation  
11 petitions that have been filed with both Boards.

12 I now call on Fred Wells of Tim Miller  
13 Associates to moderate the meeting.

14 Mr. Wells.

15 MR. WELLS: Thank you, Supervisor Doles.

16 Tim Miller Associates has been hired by  
17 the Village to prepare the Environmental Impact  
18 Statement for this action. Tonight I'll be  
19 moderating the meeting.

20 I welcome everyone to tonight's public  
21 hearing. This is a public hearing on the Draft  
22 Generic Environmental Impact Statement, or DGEIS,  
23 and a public hearing on two annexation petitions  
24 which have been presented to the Village of  
25 Kiryas Joel and Town of Monroe. This hearing is

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2 a step in the environmental review process that  
3 is provided for under the New York State  
4 Environmental Quality Review Act, often referred  
5 to as SEQRA. This hearing is also being  
6 conducted pursuant to New York State General  
7 Municipal Law which applies to annexation  
8 actions.

9 As a brief background for tonight, a  
10 petition has been filed with the Town of Monroe  
11 and the Village of Kiryas Joel to annex  
12 approximately 507 acres of land presently in the  
13 Town of Monroe to the Village. This petition was  
14 filed pursuant to New York State General  
15 Municipal Law in December of 2013. Additionally,  
16 a petition was filed in August 2014 with the Town  
17 and the Village to annex approximately 164 acres  
18 from the Town to the Village as an alternative to  
19 the 507-acre annexation. The smaller annexation  
20 territory is included wholly within the 507  
21 acres. There are maps posted in the back of the  
22 room, two maps, that show those two different  
23 territories in color.

24 The DGEIS has been prepared which  
25 considers potential impacts of both actions and

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2 has been circulated to the public for review.  
3 The notice of completion of the DGIS and notice  
4 to publicize the SEQRA hearing and the DGIS were  
5 duly distributed and published pursuant to the  
6 Environmental Conservation Law. Additionally,  
7 notices to publicize the annexation hearing were  
8 duly mailed and published pursuant to the General  
9 Municipal Law, and affidavits of service were  
10 filed with the village clerk.

11 The EIS is called generic because the  
12 proposed action does not include any decision on  
13 site specific development proposals for the  
14 approval of the proposed 507-acre annexation or  
15 alternatively the 164-acre annexation. The  
16 Village of Kiryas Joel Trustees and the Town of  
17 Monroe Town Board are the only decision making  
18 bodies. The Village has been designated to be  
19 lead agency for this review.

20 Tonight the Village and Town officials are  
21 here to receive public comments on these proposed  
22 actions and on the potential impacts that were  
23 evaluated in the DGEIS. As provided by SEQRA,  
24 the public comment period will include this  
25 hearing, and following the close of the hearing

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2 there will be a period for receipt of written  
3 comments through June 22nd. The purpose of this  
4 meeting is to receive your comments. After the  
5 comment period, the lead agency will be  
6 responsible for preparing a Final GEIS which will  
7 contain all of the comments received and written  
8 responses to those comments. That Final GEIS  
9 will be circulated and made available for public  
10 review through the website established for this  
11 purpose. No decision on the annexation petitions  
12 can be made by the Village or Town officials  
13 until this SEQRA review process is completed.  
14 All documents produced in connection with the  
15 environmental review of the annexation petitions,  
16 including all public comments received, are or  
17 will be posted online at  
18 [www.kj-seqra.com/507acres](http://www.kj-seqra.com/507acres).

19 The Village understands and appreciates  
20 the community's interest in the proposed  
21 annexation and seeks your input. To facilitate  
22 an orderly hearing, there are sign-up sheets at  
23 the back of the room for anyone wishing to make a  
24 comment on the DGIS or annexation petitions. If  
25 you wish to speak, please be sure to get your

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2 name on one of the lists.

3 I'll first invite a representative of the  
4 petitioners to make a short presentation.

5 Mr. Barshov.

6 MR. BARSHOV: Can you hear me now? Okay.  
7 Good evening, everybody. It's a pleasure to be  
8 here tonight. I represent the applicants, the  
9 petitioners for annexation, and I'm here to do  
10 one thing and one thing only, and that is to lay  
11 out the affirmative case for why this annexation  
12 is in the overall public interest, and I'm going  
13 to go through the factors that are involved in  
14 that discussion and give this information to the  
15 decision makers so that they can have this as  
16 part of the record. The decision makers of  
17 course are the two Boards, and they need to hear  
18 the substance of why this annexation makes sense  
19 and why it's in the overall public interest.

20 Fact number one: Kiryas Joel's population  
21 is going to grow. No one in this room can stop  
22 it because people have children, and they're  
23 going to have a lot of children because for the  
24 last forty years they've been having children.  
25 My client, Mr. Gelb, his grandfather came here in



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2 the 1970s. Many of the people that you see in  
3 Kiryas Joel have families that have been here for  
4 three generations. That is not going to change.  
5 The question is where are these people going to  
6 go? Where are they going to live? Most of the  
7 Village's land is occupied and there's very  
8 little land left for development. Some of the  
9 land that is available for development has  
10 wetlands and steep slopes and would be unlawful  
11 to develop. Some of it is occupied by Yeshivas  
12 and is also not available for development.  
13 There's one large parcel of land that the  
14 property owner who does own it has not expressed  
15 any interest in developing. So where are the  
16 people to go? Would you prefer that they be  
17 spread all around Orange County, which is --

18 THE PUBLIC: Yes. Yes. Yes.

19 (Applause.)

20 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Ladies and gentlemen.  
21 Ladies and gentlemen, I'm going to ask you please  
22 to let the speakers --

23 MR. BARSHOV: I'm going to do one thing --

24 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Excuse me. Let me  
25 finish.

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2 MR. BARSHOV: Please. I didn't hear you  
3 speak.

4 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Please extend the  
5 courtesy to each speaker. You will have your  
6 chance to be able to speak and be heard. Thank  
7 you.

8 Continue, sir.

9 THE PUBLIC: He asked a question.

10 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Excuse me. Again,  
11 we're going to ask -- I'm going to ask as the  
12 Chair for this meeting to please temper the tone  
13 so we can at least move through this DGEIS in a  
14 manner which is not only civil but as prescribed  
15 by law. So please give each of the speakers time  
16 to speak, time to be heard. You will have the  
17 opportunity to be heard yourself. Thank you.

18 Go ahead.

19 MR. BARSHOV: Thank you for the answer.  
20 It was the answer I expected to hear. Here's why  
21 it makes no sense.

22 When you turn around and you talk about  
23 development, you look at what is called smart  
24 growth. Smart growth is transitory into  
25 development. It's development that grows

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2 organically from an existing community. Where  
3 does that growth occur in terms of KJ? It occurs  
4 in the bordering properties that surround it. It  
5 does not occur sprinkled all through Orange  
6 County. It may appeal to whatever position it is  
7 that people who oppose annexation wish to  
8 advocate, but in terms of public policy, in terms  
9 of what makes sense for community development and  
10 growth, it makes absolutely no sense. No plan  
11 that I am aware of, none that I've seen,  
12 including the plan that is applicable to Orange  
13 County, calls for unsmart growth. It all calls  
14 for smart growth.

15 How is the annexation promoting smart  
16 growth? One, this community has patterns of  
17 development including sidewalks and a transit  
18 system. How do those sidewalks and transit  
19 systems get extended? By gradually organically  
20 growing the community in the bordering  
21 properties. That's how communities grow and make  
22 sense to grow.

23 What else makes sense about a community  
24 like Kiryas Joel growing? It has a water supply  
25 system that has been in the works for some time,

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2 tapping into an aqueduct. It makes sense for the  
3 properties that are developed to be utilizing  
4 that aqueduct system. Why? Because it preserves  
5 the groundwater for the rest of the Town of  
6 Monroe. It makes complete sense to do this this  
7 way.

8 The other points that are made --

9 THE PUBLIC: Thank you.

10 MR. BARSHOV: The other points that are to  
11 be made. There's the police services, EMT  
12 services, all of which are more efficiently  
13 provided from the Village growing outward than  
14 sprinkled throughout the Town. There are  
15 multiple services that are associated with an  
16 annexation application. Every single one of  
17 them, when you go down the line, and they're  
18 analyzing the EIS extensibly, are either neutral  
19 or in favor of this annexation application.  
20 There is no data, there is no information that is  
21 against the annexation. I'll tell you what the  
22 data points to. What the data and the arguments  
23 point to are that people don't want this  
24 community to grow, and it is growing.

25 (Applause.)

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2 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Gentlemen, if the  
3 public could keep it's applause down until after  
4 the speakers, please. This way we set a policy.  
5 It probably will be a long evening for everyone  
6 here in the entire room. Please wait until the  
7 speaker is done and then -- please, then you can  
8 applause -- applaud or not. Thank you.

9 MR. BARSHOV: Now, there's a requirement  
10 in the decisional law that speaks to something  
11 called unity of purpose. Unity of purpose is one  
12 of the elements that is required to be considered  
13 for purposes of annexation. It was the Zoning  
14 Board of Appeals of the Town of Monroe that  
15 perhaps spoke best to the unity of purpose in  
16 denying a variance request relating to 37 of the  
17 177 parcels proposed for annexation. It  
18 described that land as follows: It really has no  
19 relationship with the territory of the Town. It  
20 is far removed from the center function of the  
21 Town and far more related to the Village. Indeed  
22 these lands that are on the other side of 17 are  
23 principally related to the Village, and by  
24 annexing these territories the Village grows in a  
25 smart way with creation of unity of purpose.

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2 What does unity of purpose specifically mean? It  
3 means that there's an integration between the  
4 lands that are annexed and the community into  
5 which they are annexed. That integration occurs  
6 physically by extension of streets and sidewalks.  
7 It occurs functionally in terms of extension of a  
8 transportation system. It occurs spiritually and  
9 religiously by the unification of these  
10 communities where there's common interests  
11 involved. It even occurs linguistically because  
12 the predominantly Yiddish population that will  
13 move into these areas will be served by a  
14 government that provides it's services in both  
15 Yiddish and English. It also provides  
16 environmental protection. It is smart growth  
17 because it is not sprawl.

18 The people that live in Kiryas Joel, I'm  
19 sure many of you know this, many of them commute  
20 to New York City via Monroe Bus Company. Monroe  
21 Bus Company saves thousands of trips into New  
22 York City by car, by operating buses that are  
23 utilized by many of the people in KJ who work in  
24 the city. That bus company will be able to  
25 expand it's operations and transport more people

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2 efficiently instead of having yet more car trips,  
3 even in and around the county, in and around the  
4 town or going to and from New York City. Monroe  
5 Bus Company will also be able to put in a  
6 facility to repair it's vehicles and not have to  
7 have them brought down to New York City for that  
8 purpose as well.

9 The Town does not have a police  
10 department. The Village does. This is another  
11 example of the type of service that is provided  
12 more efficiently by annexation than by spreading  
13 community all -- by spreading development all  
14 around town.

15 The last point that I want to make is  
16 perhaps one that you may be surprised to hear.  
17 Nobody in this room really knows me. Nobody has  
18 really taken the time to talk to me. Let me tell  
19 you a little bit just about me. I practiced law  
20 for eight years in New Mexico. That's where I  
21 started to practice law. I saw annexation  
22 hearings and incorporation hearings and I  
23 litigated annexation and incorporation cases  
24 there. The issues that you face are not that  
25 unique to this area. You may think they are but

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2 they are not. Questions of growth, questions of  
3 annexation, questions of incorporation have  
4 occurred in this country since it's founding.  
5 How many of you know that the City of greater New  
6 York was the greatest consolidation of an urban  
7 area in the United States, taking entire counties  
8 and bringing them together? Why? In order to  
9 have an orderly way of growing. In order to make  
10 that city function better. Annexation is here to  
11 provide a method by which communities grow  
12 intelligently. They are going to grow. And this  
13 community is going to grow. And the question  
14 really before these Boards is what is the  
15 intelligent way to have that growth occur.

16 I'm interested in hearing tonight, as I  
17 asked people when I was practicing in New Mexico,  
18 don't tell me what you are opposed to. You tell  
19 me what you are in favor of and then I will know  
20 how to respect your opinion. You tell me where  
21 you want those people to go, you tell me why you  
22 want them to go there, and then we can judge the  
23 merits of this annexation. It's the low hanging  
24 fruit to turn around and say no, no, no, I'm  
25 against this, I'm against this and against that .



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2 You tell me what you're in favor of. You tell me  
3 where you want these people to go, what the  
4 pattern of development will be, and then these  
5 people can make an intelligent decision.

6 Thank you very much.

7 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Mr. Wells.

8 MR. WELLS: Thank you, Mr. Barshov.

9 I'd like to ask that all the petitioners  
10 who live in the annexation territory that are  
11 here tonight to please stand briefly.

12 Thank you.

13 We, that is the Village Trustees, Town  
14 Councilmen and the Village Consultants, are here  
15 to listen. We do not anticipate answering  
16 questions on specific concerns or responding to  
17 comments. Rather the purpose of this meeting is  
18 to receive your comments and questions. A  
19 Stenographer is present to record the comments  
20 that are made at the microphone so we will have a  
21 complete record of tonight's proceeding from  
22 which appropriate responses can be made for the  
23 Final GEIS as well as from the written comments  
24 received. Everyone who wishes to speak will be  
25 given three minutes. Please respect the time so

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2 that all who wish to speak will be heard. Please  
3 keep your comments until the end of the speaker  
4 in order to allow the speaker to say their peace.  
5 I ask everyone be respectful in their comments  
6 and minimize comments or applause. If you have  
7 written comments to submit, there's no need to  
8 read your comments top to bottom, they'll all be  
9 made part of the record. You may hand written  
10 comments to me tonight before you leave. When  
11 you come up to the microphone, please state your  
12 name and address prior to making your comments.  
13 If somebody has already offered a comment on  
14 something you intended to speak about, please  
15 indicate that when you come to the microphone.  
16 There's no need to repeat comments already made.  
17 I'll be calling names from the speakers from the  
18 sign-up sheets. There are seats up here in the  
19 front row which people can come up and sit prior  
20 to going to the microphone.

21 The first four speakers are Mr. Steven  
22 Neuhaus, Sonia Mason, Beile Pessy and Chaya  
23 Weider.

24 Mr. Neuhaus.

25 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Ladies and gentlemen,

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2 just for the public's information, we are pleased  
3 and we are very proud to have our County  
4 Executive, Steve Neuhaus here. I know Mr.  
5 Neuhaus for many years. He's served as the  
6 supervisor for Chester. He himself knows how  
7 painful an annexation is.

8 As supervisor for Chester, between the  
9 Town of Chester and the Village of Chester, you  
10 went through a lot. You, perhaps more than most  
11 people in this room, are familiar with that type  
12 of process, and I thank you.

13 MR. NEUHAUS: Thank you, Mr. Supervisor,  
14 Mayor and Members of the Board, Members of the  
15 Public. It's not really normal for the County  
16 Executive to be at local meetings like this but I  
17 will tell you a few months ago I held a public  
18 forum at the Chester Elementary School, it was  
19 standing room only, and I held it because the  
20 meeting that was held here during the winter  
21 didn't afford the public to be able to come to  
22 the meeting. As a former supervisor and a  
23 councilman I had a lot of meetings I didn't want  
24 to go to and I had a lot of things I didn't want  
25 to hear, but you have to do it. That's our job

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2 as elected officials. No matter what the message  
3 is, we need to hear from the people and we need  
4 to accommodate them. So that has mobilized and  
5 galvanized what you see behind me today.  
6 Supervisors and mayors from all over Orange  
7 County, from Crawford to Deer Park and everywhere  
8 in between, have supported what the County  
9 started, and that was to run a parallel SEQRA  
10 process.

11 At the end of the day when you talk about  
12 an annexation, the decision is really one, is  
13 this in the overall best interest of the public.  
14 Is this in the overall best interest of the  
15 public. We started that study a few weeks ago  
16 and we have some preliminary results. Those  
17 preliminary results, I'm going to say about  
18 twelve of them today and then I'm going to  
19 utilize the next week-and-a-half up until the  
20 June 22nd deadline to submit comments in writing  
21 on behalf of the County. But that initial  
22 question, is this in the best interest of the  
23 public, I will tell you my friends it's no.

24 (Applause.)

25 MR. NEUHAUS: Ordinarily I wouldn't mind

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2 applause but I've got a certain amount of time to  
 3 get up here. I don't want to get rushed out of  
 4 here. I appreciate the support but let's talk  
 5 about the twelve initial concerns that are  
 6 independent, which republican/democratic  
 7 legislators hired identified these twelve  
 8 concerns.

9 Number one, errors and inconsistencies of  
 10 the descriptions of the annexation territory.

11 Number two, concerns that the petition may  
 12 impact County parklands. There's a park that's  
 13 involved in this. DGEIS 3.7.5

14 Number three, anticipated growth. We have  
 15 concerns about the data that was from -- that was  
 16 submitted, concerns of what our consultant came  
 17 up with.

18 Number four, Social Service costs.

19 Number five, impact on early intervention  
 20 and school district costs. DGEIS 3.2.11  
 DGEIS 3.3.6

21 Number six, impact on the public health  
 22 monitoring. DGEIS 3.3.9

23 Number seven, impact on emergency services  
 24 and the loss of the tax base to the fire district  
 25 that presently covers the area that's being

DGEIS 3.3.8

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2 annexed or considered to be annexed.

3 Number eight, the flawed nature of the  
4 traffic study. DGEIS 3.4.8

5 Number nine, inconsistent use of varying  
6 demographic measurements of methodologies. DGEIS 3.2.10

7 Number ten, the unnecessarily limited  
8 population projection timeframe utilized by the  
9 DGEIS. DGEIS 3.2.10

10 Number eleven, errors in the wetland  
11 impacts. DGEIS 3.6.4

12 And number twelve, wastewater impacts and  
13 impacts on the Ramapo River itself. DGEIS 3.5.8

14 I would tell you I'm not just a County  
15 Executive that works in Goshen every day. I grew  
16 up in Monroe. My family still lives here. I  
17 went to Monroe-Woodbury High School. I was a  
18 volunteer firefighter. I believe and love this  
19 County. What has happened today has really  
20 galvanized everywhere else in the County and has  
21 really put us at odds with each other. There's  
22 been no talk about any sitting down, about what  
23 the true impacts of this are. I'm going to make  
24 sure that the County, along with the elected  
25 officials, Republican and Democrat, outline it to

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2 you.

3 I will say two quick things before I  
4 finish, and I appreciate the extra time. I'm  
5 sure I went over.

6 Number one is that we have all the  
7 detailed comments online on the County website  
8 now. I told them to launch it at 7 tonight.

9 Number two, the question again before you  
10 is is this in the overall best interest of the  
11 public. And I hope you vote no. Thank you.

12 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you, County  
13 Executive.

14 Mr. Wells, our next speaker is.

15 MR. WELLS: Our next speaker is Sonia  
16 Mason.

17 MS. MASON: Good evening. Thank you for  
18 this opportunity to speak. I represent the New  
19 York/New Jersey Trail Conference. We are  
20 custodians of two regional trails that traverse  
21 the proposed annexation and we are gravely  
22 concerned with the environmental and cultural  
23 impact on these trails. They're not small  
24 inconsequential trails but popular multi-state  
25 greenways connecting the areas of preserves and

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2 state parks. Both of them were featured in the  
3 New York State Open Space Plan. The Long Park is  
4 365 miles starting from the GW Bridge all the way  
5 into Schocharie County, and the Highlands Trail  
6 is 150 mile long route from Pennsylvania through  
7 to Connecticut. These two trails share a park  
8 along Seven Springs Road which if it were to be  
9 developed would lose it's rural nature and  
10 character and become more urbanized. It would  
11 become a very much less pleasant place to walk  
12 and even a little hostile to hike. We don't  
13 correspond to any particular dress code.

14 We do not believe that the claim of future  
15 development of this land is inevitable. We would  
16 prefer to see this parcel preserved in fact as a  
17 green corridor. It's an important link between  
18 Goose Pond Mountain and Schunnemunk, not only for  
19 recreational purposes and public access but for  
20 wildlife migration.

21 We in fact have no other place to put  
22 these two trails. So we are really concerned  
23 about doing something about keeping the land  
24 rural and not developed.

25 Additionally, it is not true that this



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2 development is most sustainable and has a lower  
3 impact on it's surroundings, as claimed in the  
4 DEIS, if it involves severely altering natural  
5 space. This development is better suited to be  
6 using vacant lots in urban areas rather than  
7 spoiling rural ones and creating a heavy user  
8 impact on it's water and waste treatment.  
9 Apologies, I'm a little nervous. We do believe  
10 that this would be reversed from rural  
11 residential to more denser building once the  
12 annexation is affected.

13 Another thing we're concerned about is  
14 that although the DEIS states that the annexation  
15 will not remove or hinder public access to the  
16 parkland from Seven Springs Road or Mountain  
17 Road, we think it's a reasonable concern and the  
18 dress code of the community occupying the current  
19 Village would result in harassment for particular  
20 hikers walking on public roads, and we do not  
21 want this to happen at any cost.

22 As an ecologist I have to respond to the  
23 claim of smart growth. It is inevitable in many,  
24 many studies that unfortunately the explosive  
25 population growth is not -- DGEIS 3.7.5

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2 MR. WELLS: Ms. Mason, please wrap up your  
3 comments.

4 MS. MASON: Okay. We need to remember  
5 that we share a limited planet and fast  
6 population growth inevitably will result in  
7 conflict over resources and space to live. Thank  
8 you.

9 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Beile  
10 Pessy, followed by Chaya Weider.

11 MS. PESSY: Good evening. My name is  
12 Beile Pessy. Good evening. My name is Beile  
13 Pessy and this is my twin sister. I thank God  
14 every day that I was born with a twin sister,  
15 because if not I would be in total isolation. I  
16 want to ask whoever has the power if they could  
17 help us and our friends in the same situation.  
18 Not to mention I already worry about my children  
19 eventually shouldn't have to suffer the  
20 difficulty I endure. Children my age like to  
21 grow up with friends, the park, after school  
22 programs, be part of the community they know and  
23 love.

24 We are handicap. We can not possibly do  
25 what children our age are doing. The reason is

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2 because our streets are not safe. The streets  
3 are dark, actually very dark. My parents put a  
4 light on our house but there are no lights beyond  
5 that. There are wild animals, there are cars  
6 going by and there may be dangerous people, too.  
7 The sad thing is that during daylight our streets  
8 are unsafe too. Our streets look like an old  
9 fashioned road that was created by horses and  
10 buggies passing by. It is so twisted and curved  
11 that it is impossible for cars to stay in their  
12 lane. It is also so narrow that if two school  
13 buses have to pass each other they must both be  
14 extra careful. I can not possibly understand.  
15 It is 2015. In all these years why does our  
16 local government not care about the citizens to  
17 provide us with safe sidewalks, safe streets and  
18 safe street lights? We can not go out during the  
19 day, during the night, and most importantly  
20 during Jewish holidays. We also feel very  
21 insecure on these special days. We all wish that  
22 the KJ public safety patrol would circle our  
23 area. We feel it's odd. We are the ones who  
24 feel unsafe. They are not here for us. Our  
25 parents do not even let us go down the block.

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2 There are girls our ages sitting home alone  
3 because of the same reason, they don't feel that  
4 the streets are safe for us even when they walk  
5 with us. Our streets are so unsafe in the  
6 evening my father would drive us to walk around  
7 the lake in town so we get some healthy exercise  
8 done. We are now afraid to go there too. Last  
9 summer a few times cars scream at us. They love  
10 to see us get scared. One car stopped and yelled  
11 loudly go to your own park. Don't you know we  
12 don't have our own park? We still struggle with  
13 the issues of the olden days.

14 Unfortunately our outfits got ruined  
15 during washing because we have dirty well water.  
16 My friends all wish for safe, clean water so they  
17 can drink it too. We rely on bottled water only.

18 We also always have to worry about septic  
19 issues. It feels so old fashioned not to have  
20 sewer. Once again, I want to beg please for the  
21 sake of us young children, I urge you to please  
22 vote yes to annexing the 507 acres into the  
23 Village of Kiryas Joel. Thank you.

24 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Ms. Chaya  
25 Weider, followed by Herman Wagschal.

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2 MS. WEIDER: Good evening. My name is  
3 Chaya Weider, a resident of Seven Springs Road in  
4 the Town of Monroe. I'm one of the applicants of  
5 the 507-acre annexation application, and I thank  
6 you all for the opportunity to listen to our  
7 concerns. I'll try to quickly explain why I feel  
8 all applicants are so desperate to be annexed to  
9 the Village of Kiryas Joel where we know that we  
10 can and we will get the services we so  
11 desperately need.

12 My husband and I are hard working people.  
13 We are blessed with four children and we both  
14 work hard to support and raise them while holding  
15 a job to provide for their needs. We pay one of  
16 the highest rates of school tax in New York  
17 State. We pay county and town tax on our  
18 property. Obviously we pay utility tax, sewer  
19 tax, sales tax, we pay Social Security tax and,  
20 yes, contrary to popular belief and what we've  
21 been accused of, we do pay income taxes, too.  
22 Every parent wants to raise their children to  
23 belong in the community that they are raised.  
24 Our community grows by choice. We will continue  
25 to grow and expand. I hope to be able to build

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2 additional apartments on my vacant land so that  
3 my four children can stay living next to us. We  
4 want to enjoy the next generation and see them  
5 grow up. We need to stay in this area so that we  
6 can have access to the school system of our  
7 choice, to the shopping center, the medical  
8 center and to the new park on our road. In order  
9 to stay on our properties we need to have decent  
10 zoning and decent living conditions. We can not  
11 continue struggling with well and septic. We  
12 need plain and safe drinking water and sewer. We  
13 need safe roads. Seven Springs Road where we  
14 live is one of the most dangerous roads in Orange  
15 County. We need a government that will improve  
16 pedestrian safety in our neighborhood. In  
17 addition to being an unsafe road, there are no  
18 street lights and no sidewalks to speak of. I  
19 can not allow my children to go to the next door  
20 neighbor alone, not in daylight and definitely  
21 not in the dark.

22 I'm confident that under the leadership of  
23 Kiryas Joel Village these issues can and will be  
24 improved. Our children need to be safe. We  
25 shouldn't need them but we need the reassurance

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2 that if we do need them we have access to the KJ  
3 EMS, KJ fire department and KJ public safety.

4 By choice, women and teens don't drive.  
5 We need to have access to the KJ public  
6 transportation, which, as a matter of fact,  
7 boosts the outside economy by also transporting  
8 us to the shopping areas outside of KJ, in  
9 addition to the vital transportation system it  
10 provides for the community. It's the only way to  
11 safely transport the kids to school and other  
12 community destinations. We're part of the <sup>DGEIS</sup>  
13 community and we need to stay part of a <sup>Pgs. 2-11</sup>  
14 community. It's totally unfair to us, our <sup>to</sup>  
15 children and our future generations to be cut off <sup>2-13</sup>  
16 from very important services because a few people  
17 who stand --

18 THE PUBLIC: Time is up. Time is up.

19 MS. WEIDER: -- nothing to lose from  
20 annexation.

21 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Ms. Weider, your time  
22 is up.

23 MS. WEIDER: -- out of pure hatred. I  
24 hope the time has finally come when all elected  
25 officials across the board will stand up and

1 PUBLIC HEARING

2 continue doing what's right for us.

3 SUPERVISOR DOLES: The time is up, please.

4 MS. WEIDER: There is others that went  
5 over.

6 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Mr. Wells, if you'd  
7 give me a moment. If you would kindly, thirty  
8 seconds prior to the three minutes, if you could  
9 just give the notice.

10 MR. WAGSCHAL: I would appreciate, before  
11 I start speaking my speech, to express my opinion  
12 that we should all have the same right. People  
13 before went over their time and they were not  
14 booed. Why are we booed if we go a half a minute  
15 over?

16 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Mr. Wagschal, I advise  
17 you -- Mr. Wagschal --

18 MR. WAGSCHAL: Yes.

19 SUPERVISOR DOLES: -- look and listen to  
20 me very carefully. I would advise you and anyone  
21 here this evening to temper your anger. Do not  
22 dare to address it to this Board or else I will  
23 have you ejected. Do you understand, sir?

24 MR. WAGSCHAL: Yes, sir. Good evening.  
25 My name is Herman Wagschal. I'm a father of



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2 eleven and grandfather of many more. I'm also a  
3 rabbi of a congregation of approximately  
4 twenty-five families who are all annexation  
5 applicants. I respectfully thank all officials  
6 who are here tonight. We all -- with all due  
7 respect to officials, the Town of Monroe has not,  
8 can not and will not accommodate the needs of us  
9 residents in the annexation application area.

10 I am son of an Auschwitz survivor. He  
11 killed six million of us but he has not  
12 successful to finish his plan. And here we are  
13 tonight as legal citizens of the United States of  
14 America, and we are allowed to rebuild our loss.

15 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Mr. Wagschal, please,  
16 I'm going to interrupt you for two reasons. One,  
17 because of the public. Please let Mr. Wagschal  
18 finish. And Mr. Wagschal, We can hear you. I  
19 understand -- I understand the passion and the  
20 concerns that you have, but please, if you can  
21 temper your voice when you're addressing this  
22 Board, I ask you.

23 MR. WAGSCHAL: Thank you. Our government  
24 allows us to freely have as many children as we  
25 choose. The government gives us protection under

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2 freedom of religion. Therefore, despite all you  
3 will hear tonight from people who will exercise  
4 their right of freedom of speech to openly  
5 express their hatred, I hope that the elected  
6 officials will be responsible enough to look  
7 beyond the vote of that group. And I rephrase,  
8 that minority group, even though they are well  
9 organized to make it sound like if they are  
10 expressing the view of the silent majority, and  
11 help us get the service that we are entitled to  
12 by law.

13 It is clear that special accommodations  
14 have been made in Monroe to benefit a handful of  
15 people without regard to the safety of others.  
16 As of a good example, for long years most traffic  
17 coming off Route 17 and exit 130 to the Village  
18 of Kiryas Joel was coming through Schunnemunk  
19 Street. Then all of a sudden Schunnemunk Street  
20 was restricted to eleven ton, which in fact  
21 diverted all tractor trailers and tandems to  
22 County Route 44, Seven Springs in Monroe. Let's  
23 look at this. Instead of driving approximately a  
24 half a mile on fairly straight streets with a  
25 population of approximately one dozen houses,

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2 they now have to divert and drive four miles,  
3 which fifty percent of it is very sloped,  
4 dangerously curbed with about fifty houses. Many  
5 people are at increased risk due to this  
6 negligent move.

7 MR. WELLS: Mr. Wagschal, twenty seconds.

8 MR. WAGSCHAL: Did anyone make a study  
9 before they allowed this to happen in order to  
10 accommodate about one dozen families? Our people  
11 are here to stay. We are entitled and will  
12 continue to multiply and grow. We need our  
13 community services. We need schools, we need  
14 more schools. We need housing for seniors,  
15 children and grandchildren.

16 MR. WELLS: Mr. Wagschal, please wrap it  
17 up.

18 MR. WAGSCHAL: And we need to live under  
19 decent conditions and provide services that the  
20 Village of Kiryas Joel can and will provide to  
21 us.

22 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you, Mr.  
23 Wagschal. Your time is up. Thank you, sir.

24 MR. WAGSCHAL: I would appreciate again if  
25 I would have the same privilege as --

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2 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Mr. Wagschal, I  
3 appreciate your enthusiasm but we have rules  
4 here, and all of us will abide by the rules. I  
5 thank you for your time and for your  
6 consideration.

7 The next speaker.

8 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Abraham  
9 Flohr, and then David Goldberger, followed by  
10 Rabbi David Zwibel. Abraham Flohr? Is he  
11 present?

12 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Is Mr. Flohr here?  
13 We'll ask once and once only.

14 (No response.)

15 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Next speaker, please.

16 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is David  
17 Goldberger, followed by Rabbi David Zwibel.

18 MR. GOLDBERGER: Good evening. My name is  
19 David Goldberger. I must admit tonight, I  
20 brought a house in the `70s in the Town of  
21 Monroe. That was my biggest mistake. The main  
22 reason I petition to annex my property to the  
23 Village of Kiryas Joel is to get access to the  
24 local government services provided by the  
25 Village. First and foremost, I'm thinking of

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2 emergency services. The Town of Monroe  
3 government only speaks English. Many of my  
4 family members are most comfortable speaking in  
5 Yiddish. This can make a big difference in  
6 emergency situations. In an emergency people may  
7 be disoriented or in shock, and ability to use  
8 the language they know best might end up saving a  
9 life. It also matters a lot that the  
10 headquarters of the KJ public safety, EMS and  
11 fire departments are next to the area proposed  
12 for annexation. They would simply be able to  
13 respond faster to calls there. The Town of  
14 Monroe doesn't even have it's own police  
15 department. How can anyone argue that we get the  
16 same level of service by staying in the Town of  
17 Monroe? There are big improvements with  
18 emergency services speed and quality in care  
19 between KJ, and in an emergency a small  
20 difference matters.

DGEIS Pgs. 2-11+0  
2-13

21 Secondly, it's also about uniting to the  
22 life of a community in KJ which is currently  
23 separated by an arbitrary political line. Myself  
24 and other petitioners can see ourselves in fact  
25 members of the KJ community, but we are cut off

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2 from access to many benefits of services because  
3 we are politically separated from the KJ  
4 community. To name just one example, there's the  
5 wonderful Kinder Park in KJ where all the  
6 families that reside in KJ bring their children  
7 to play in the beautiful playground. This is an  
8 amenity for residents. If you become KJ  
9 residents by annexing to KJ you would also have  
10 access to many other recreational and social  
11 opportunities. These are so important to  
12 sustaining community life. The annexation will  
13 make improvements in transportation, to issues  
14 such as sidewalks, street lights, buses, and  
15 these things mean a lot for safety and other  
16 reasons. But really just for support and  
17 structure for the KJ community life which is  
18 perhaps even more important. That annexation is  
19 really about self-determination, the ability to  
20 live our lives in peace in the manner that we  
21 choose. DGEIS Pgs. 2-11 to 2-13

22 MR. WELLS: Mr. Goldberger, thirty  
23 seconds.

24 MR. GOLDBERGER: We all want to join KJ  
25 because we want to live our lives in harmony with

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2 our community. This is not to attract others and  
3 others shouldn't think of it that way. The land  
4 proposed for annexation is not really connected  
5 to the rest of Monroe. It is separated by a  
6 highway. It is just KJ annexation in their own  
7 areas, and it makes sense that they should join  
8 together.

9 MR. WELLS: Mr. Goldberger, please wrap up  
10 your comments.

11 MR. GOLDBERGER: I would like to touch on  
12 one issue --

13 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Mr. Goldberger, your  
14 time is up. I thank you very much.

15 MR. GOLDBERGER: The biggest mistake I  
16 ever did, I bought the house in the Town of  
17 Monroe, not in KJ.

18 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you, Mr.  
19 Goldberger.

20 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Rabbi  
21 David Zwibel.

22 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Just one moment.  
23 Ladies and gentlemen, unless you're a member or a  
24 credentialized member of the press, the area here  
25 by the podium is reserved only for those. Thank

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2 you.

3 MR. ZWIBEL: Thank you so very much. It's  
4 my honor to be here today to speak before this  
5 distinguished Board. My name is David Zwibel, I  
6 am both a rabbi and an attorney. I am the  
7 executive vice president of a national Orthodox  
8 Jewish organization called of Agudath Israel of  
9 America. I'm honored to be here tonight and to  
10 offer a few words from a perspective, not as  
11 somebody who is a resident of the community as  
12 we've heard from some residents before and people  
13 who have grown up over here. I've never -- I've  
14 lived in New York City actually all my life. But  
15 as a director, as the executive vice president of  
16 the national Orthodox Jewish organization, the  
17 message I wanted to deliver here tonight, with  
18 your permission, is that there is a very broad  
19 interest beyond the local community in what's  
20 been going on over here in Kiryas Joel and with  
21 respect to this annexation.

22 MR. WELLS: Excuse me, sir. Please put  
23 the microphone closer. Thank you.

24 MR. ZWIBEL: My apologies. There is a  
25 very broad interest across the larger Jewish



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2 community about what has been taking place over  
3 here, and with respect specifically to this  
4 annexation petition. There are other things  
5 going on not very far from here. We know about  
6 what's happening in Bloomingburg. We know about  
7 the court's ruling yesterday. We are deeply  
8 concerned as we watch what's going on over here  
9 when we see that there are laws that are being  
10 proposed in Albany for the very first time,  
11 unprecedented laws, which would change the way  
12 things are done which are clearly directed at the  
13 particular effort that's being discussed here  
14 tonight. There are extraordinary steps that are  
15 being taken at this time precisely because there  
16 seems to be a great concern and fear about the  
17 growth of the Hasidic Jewish population here.  
18 With all due respect, from the -- again from the  
19 perspective of the larger Orthodox Jewish  
20 community that's observing what's going on over  
21 here, that's something that raises deep, deep  
22 concern to us. When there's an organic growth  
23 that in some way is sought to be accommodated  
24 through an annexation petition such as this one,  
25 and where there is very fierce and, how shall I

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2 say, innovative, creative ways of being  
3 approached to prevent that organic growth from  
4 taking place, that's something that's deeply  
5 troubling.

6 So as an observer from a distance but  
7 nonetheless a very interested observer in what's  
8 going on, my appeal to the good people of Monroe  
9 and to this Board in particular is recognize that  
10 what we're talking about over here has broad  
11 ramifications. It's not limited specifically to  
12 what's happening here on a local basis. The eyes  
13 of the broader Jewish world certainly are upon  
14 what's happening over here. And we're hopeful  
15 that cool heads can prevail and can understand  
16 that a community is entitled to grow and a  
17 community is entitled to expand in accordance  
18 with it's religious traditions and it's religious  
19 beliefs. To find ways to improve intergroup  
20 harmony, that's our pitch. That's what's so  
21 important to us and that's what I think in part  
22 is at stake at this annexation petition. Thank  
23 you very, very much.

24 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Joel  
25 Hirsch, followed by Robert Fromaget, followed by

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2 Daniel Richmond.

3 MR. HIRSCH: Good evening. My name is  
4 Joel Hirsch, I live in the Village of Kiryas  
5 Joel. I'm a proud father of seven wonderful  
6 kids. Raising large families is in our religious  
7 belief and it has been in our families tradition  
8 for thousands of years. I grew up in Brooklyn in  
9 a family of eleven. My wife grew up here in the  
10 Village in a family of thirteen. This is how we  
11 build our own family and raise our own kids to  
12 follow in the tradition and footsteps of their  
13 parents and fathers. There's one lone exception  
14 to this. This is the family of my mother. My  
15 mother, born in 1952, was raised in a family of  
16 only four siblings. However, that was not by  
17 choice. Her father raised his own family of six  
18 children until that sad day when he was drafted  
19 into the Hungarian Army, returning home four  
20 years later to an empty house. His wife, his six  
21 children were choked to death in the Auschwitz  
22 gas chambers and their corpses burned to ashes in  
23 the infamous crematoriums, among another six  
24 million innocent Jews that were denied right to  
25 live and were murdered by the Nazi regime and

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2 their allies. Why? Because their neighbors,  
3 their governments and the allies of their  
4 governments believed that there's no place for  
5 them on earth. Today, seventy years later, when  
6 I learned that there are groups of people who  
7 actively advertise and broadcast that in their  
8 eyes there is no place for my seven children in  
9 the entire Hudson Valley region, teaming up with  
10 those who fight against Hasidic developments in  
11 Blooming Grove and Woodbury, and even as far  
12 north as in Bloomingburg, I'm starting to worry.

13 On the contrary, over the past fifteen to  
14 twenty years we have seen an increase of  
15 construction in the region, and I ask myself if  
16 there is a place in Monroe and in Woodbury for  
17 Wal-Mart, for BJ's, for Target, Home Depot,  
18 Kohl's, Michael's, Staples, Best Buy and other  
19 commercial retail stores, but for my seven  
20 children and the other over 8,000 children, girls  
21 that live in this community, there's no place.  
22 If there is a place for sixty more retail stores  
23 in the Woodbury Commons along with the five-story  
24 parking garage, no demonstrations are held, no  
25 County public hearing, no assembly legislators

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2 pass --

3 MR. WELLS: Mr. Hirsch, thirty seconds.

4 MR. HIRSCH: -- to study the traffic  
5 impact of such. But for my kids the County is  
6 spending \$200,000 to study. The contrast is  
7 clear, the hypocrisy is obvious, and the double  
8 standards are shown in true colors.

9 In the name of my seven children, in the  
10 name of the parents of over 8,000 kids growing up  
11 in KJ, we ask our elected officials in the Town,  
12 in the County, in the State and the Federal  
13 Government, please don't support the doctrine and  
14 the philosophy that there is no place for our  
15 children in Monroe and in the region.

16 MR. WELLS: Thank you, sir.

17 MR. HIRSCH: Please let us continue our  
18 tradition. Let us practice our religion the way  
19 we have done for thousands of years.

20 MR. WELLS: Thank you, sir.

21 MR. HIRSCH: We are proud American  
22 citizens --

23 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Mr. Hirsch --

24 MR. HIRSCH: -- and are thankful for a  
25 government that gives to bigotry no sanction and

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2 to --

3 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Mr. Hirsch, you will  
4 stop.

5 MR. HIRSCH: -- and justice for all.  
6 Thank you.

7 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Mr. Wells, give me a  
8 moment, please. This will be probably a very  
9 long evening. This is an opportunity for  
10 everybody to be heard. You have three minutes to  
11 be heard. That is what the law says. Many of us  
12 here would welcome the opportunity to be able to  
13 extend more time to you. Most of the elected  
14 officials here would be more than favorable to  
15 meet with you one on one, meet with you in small  
16 groups, meet with you in other places to discuss  
17 this. However, here we're going to limit it to  
18 three minutes. For those -- all of you are going  
19 to be two-and-a-half minutes in, at the  
20 thirty-second time you're going to be asked just  
21 to wrap up your statement. For those who have a  
22 question about that, I'm sorry, that's going to  
23 be the protocol we will follow throughout this  
24 evening. Thank you.

25 The next speaker.

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2 MR. WELLS: Mr. Fromaget, followed by  
3 Daniel Richmond, followed by Krista Yacarone.

4 MR. FROMAGET: Hello. These are my  
5 comments about the Draft Environmental Impact  
6 Statement. You assume in your population growth  
7 analysis that the U.S. census growth is valid,  
8 however my analysis suggests that the U.S. census  
9 data is flawed and does not reflect the Kiryas  
10 Joel growth rate. In fact, my study suggests  
11 that the growth rate is closer to 8.5 percent and  
12 is consistent with the housing unit growth rate  
13 over the 2000-2010 period. This study has  
14 already been provided to you earlier. The 2010  
15 U.S. census population of 20,175, this represents  
16 a population when the census was collected during  
17 the 2010 year and does not consider the year-end  
18 population which was really 2,878. This is  
19 supported by the census summary document on page  
20 1 of section H. Page 1, the U.S. census data  
21 reported an average growth rate of 54 percent --  
22 I'm sorry, 5.4 percent. And despite the average  
23 of 5.6 growth in your table in E-3, it still  
24 understates the rather conservative U.S. census  
25 growth rate. This is because of the local growth

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2 rate used in the first six years of your table  
3 E-3 section E. The U.S. census growth rate  
4 actually supports 45,660 residents by 2025 and  
5 assumes that you use the actual year-end growth  
6 rate population of 2,878. In your document you  
7 use the school age children in your parochial  
8 schools. This is not based on any methodology  
9 that I've ever seen projecting population. In  
10 addition, it does not -- it is not verifiable  
11 since there's no independent source for this  
12 information besides your table in section page  
13 H-3. In addition, it does not take into  
14 consideration the doubling of the 35 to 45 year  
15 olds and the hundred percent increase in the  
16 growth for the 55 to 59 year olds and the 60 to  
17 65 year old groups that increased significantly  
18 during 2000 to 2010. These groups came with  
19 dependents and are not included in the projected  
20 growth rate. I fail to see any benefit for the  
21 community at large for these annexations. Now,  
22 since I have thirty seconds I'd like to address  
23 smart growth. Smart growth is when resources --  
24 when housing units are built around resources  
25 such as water and sewer. We do not have those



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2 resources needed to support smart growth. That's  
3 why we go to Cornwall, New Windsor for water.  
4 That's why we need to expand the sewer district  
5 into a waterway that already has more effluents  
6 than it has capacity to process and exposes the  
7 downstream communities that rely on this waterway  
8 as a sole source aquifer. This is not smart  
9 growth. Thank you.

DGEIS/FGEIS  
Chapter 2.2, 3.2, 3.1 + 3.1.5

10 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you.

11 Mr. Wells, the next speaker.

12 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Daniel  
13 Richmond, followed by Krista Yacarone, followed  
14 by Elvy Stepinoff.

15 MR. RICHMOND: Good evening. My name is  
16 Dan Richmond, I'm a partner with the law firm of  
17 Zarin & Steinmetz. We represent United Monroe  
18 which is a citizens group committed to  
19 transparent and open government. United Monroe  
20 clearly has no issue with the Village residents  
21 themselves. Many of them are friends and very  
22 likely want to seek the same fair and open  
23 government that United Monroe seeks.

24 United Monroe takes issue with the Village  
25 government which improperly conceals it's working

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2 from public scrutiny, blocks and disregards  
3 dissenting voices and sanctions poor development  
4 without regard for the public safety, welfare and  
5 the environment. Clearly ceding land to such a  
6 government is not in the public interest.

7 The flawed and incomplete analysis in the  
8 DGEIS can not justify the annexation. The DGEIS  
9 is flawed in many respects and appears  
10 significantly crafted to justify annexation  
11 without the required analysis of the serious  
12 adverse impacts that would result. The DGEIS for  
13 example arbitrarily only assesses the potential  
14 impacts of annexation through the year 2025.

15 This appears intended to avoid facing the <sup>Response 2-1 + 2-23</sup>  
16 critical issues that would arise after that date.  
17 Regardless of motivation, by limiting analysis to  
18 just the next ten years, the DGEIS deliberately  
19 avoids addressing the foreseeable impacts  
20 annexation, including the massive population  
21 increases that would likely occur if high-density  
22 housing development were allowed as the Village  
23 government would like. In any event however, the  
24 DGEIS assertion that zoning in the Town lands  
25 could be changed after annexation to allow high-

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2 density development is improper and illegal. By  
3 law municipalities can not use annexation to  
4 evade existing zoning laws. *Response 2-23*

5 Moreover, as shown on this map, which I  
6 want to be clear was commissioned by the Village  
7 government itself, the natural growth of the  
8 Hasidic community could be accommodated, it would  
9 appear, without annexation. This map shows --  
10 this map, which again I want to emphasize was  
11 prepared by the Village -- commissioned by the  
12 Village government, shows that there are over  
13 3,000 acres of Hasidic owned property outside  
14 Kiryas Joel. The DGIS fails to consider what  
15 development is allowed in these areas under  
16 existing zoning and whether it could accommodate  
17 the Hasidic community's natural growth. Perhaps  
18 more disturbingly, the DGIS fails to explain why  
19 it's even necessary to expand the Village  
20 government's jurisdiction to accommodate natural  
21 growth. The U.S. Constitution prohibits *DGEIS Pgs.*  
22 religious states and this is with good reason. *2-11 to 2-13*  
23 They make bad government. As Monroe Town  
24 Supervisor William Rogers declared in 1976 on the  
25 original petition to incorporate the Village,

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2 Kiryas Joel was created for the expressed purpose

3 --

4 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

5 MR. RICHMOND: -- of avoiding Monroe's  
6 zoning laws. Forty years later I'm not surprised  
7 that the Village has flouted it's obligation ever  
8 since.

9 Three minutes is obviously not enough time  
10 to comprehensively address the multiple  
11 substantial flaws in the DEIS. Sufficed to say  
12 that violating the Constitution can never be in  
13 the overall public interest, particularly where,  
14 as here, it would result in the extension of a  
15 very sort of unresponsive, improper government  
16 that the constitution was designed to protect  
17 against.

18 Thank you for your time.

19 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you very much.

20 Mr. Wells, the next speaker.

21 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Krista  
22 Yacarone, followed by Elvy Stepinoff, followed by  
23 William Badura.

24 MS. YACARONE: Good evening. My name is  
25 Krista Yacarone and I'm also an attorney with the

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2 law firm Zarin & Steinmetz representing United  
3 Monroe.

4 Respectfully, both the 507 acre petition  
5 and 164 acre petition contain multiple fatal  
6 flaws and wholly fail to comply with Article 17  
7 of the General Municipal Law.

8 First, both petitions violate the GML  
9 requirement that all persons signing the petition  
10 be qualified to do so. There are various alleged  
11 business organizations that signed the petitions  
12 but that are not active or valid corporations  
13 formed under the State Business Corporation Law,  
14 Not-For-Profit Corporation Law or Religious  
15 Corporation Law. In United Monroe's written  
16 submission we specifically identified which  
17 business organizations are invalid. Both  
18 petitions should be dismissed for failing to  
19 obtain valid qualified signatures.

20 Second, both petitions fail to  
21 substantially comply in form or content with GML  
22 Article 17 in that they both fail to sufficiently  
23 describe the territory proposed for annexation.  
24 For example, exhibit A of the 507 acre petition  
25 contains a description for 164 parcels whereas

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2 exhibit C to the 164 -- excuse me, 507 acre  
3 petition contains 177 parcels. There are also  
4 similar discrepancies in the 164 acre petition.  
5 It is impossible for your Boards to consider the  
6 petitions when it's not even clear what territory  
7 is being proposed for annexation, let alone  
8 possible for your Boards to approve an annexation  
9 with the petitions as they are currently drafted.  
10 Both petitions must be dismissed.

11 The petitions fail to substantially comply  
12 in form or content with the GML in many other  
13 ways. First, United Monroe has previously  
14 pointed out either annexation would violate the  
15 establishment clause of the U.S. Constitution and  
16 constitute improper delegation of political power  
17 based on the religious criteria.

18 Second, approving the petitions would  
19 cause the Monroe Town Board Members to violate  
20 the town code standard of ethics. As United  
21 Monroe has also pointed out, the code  
22 specifically establishes that causing voluntary  
23 segregation is not in the public interest and  
24 explicitly prevents town board members and  
25 employees from causing voluntary segregation. As

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2 such, any action to promote the voluntary  
3 segregation of a particular religious group, like  
4 approving annexation, would violate the code and  
5 subject board members to potential disciplinary  
6 action under the code.

7 The form and content of the petitions is  
8 further flawed because the Village government is  
9 clearly attempting to misuse the annexation  
10 process to change zoning in a relative territory  
11 and avoid the Town's current zoning which, --

12 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

13 MS. YACARONE: -- as Dan stated  
14 previously, is improper under New York law.

15 Furthermore, the 507 petition in  
16 particular would result in highly irregular  
17 jagged borders between the Town and Village.  
18 Such road boundaries have been condemned by the  
19 New York courts.

20 Furthermore, as the DGIS makes clear,  
21 approving the annexation would result in  
22 unregulated, high-density development, which  
23 certainly is not in the public interest.

24 The Village itself has publicly told New  
25 York State that annexation of lands could alone

DGEIS/  
FGEIS  
Chapter 2.2  
a  
Response  
2-20

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2 accommodate 8,550 new residents.

3 MR. WELLS: Time is up.

4 MS. YACARONE: Thank you for the  
5 opportunity.

6 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Our next speaker.

7 MR. WELLS: Our next speaker is Elvy  
8 Stepinoff.

9 MR. STEPINOFF: My name is Elvy Stepinoff  
10 and I've lived in the Village of Monroe for  
11 almost ten years. I too come from a family that  
12 lived in the Stetzels and Jewish ghettos of  
13 eastern Europe. My grandparents came to this  
14 country at the start of the last century looking  
15 to escape that harsh life and the pagrums led by  
16 Zar's thugs against Jewish communities. They  
17 left behind many friends and relatives who were  
18 later destroyed by the Nazi Holocaust during  
19 World War II. I grew up with the stories of  
20 their lives in the old country and the horrors of  
21 the death camps they were lucky enough to escape.  
22 When they came here, however, they were not  
23 welcomed with open arms. Rather like all  
24 immigrant groups before them and after them they  
25 faced discrimination. There were neighborhoods



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2 they could not live in, schools and colleges they  
3 could not attend, clubs they could not join and  
4 more. This kind of discrimination and downright  
5 hatred exhibited by some people in our society is  
6 not directed just at Jews. Many people  
7 considered different by the majority are  
8 subjected to the same restrictions and worse.  
9 Racism and anti-Semitism and anti-other in  
10 general is still too much a part of our society.  
11 So I grew up learning to work towards civil  
12 liberties for all people. All people regardless  
13 of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation,  
14 et cetera. That is what my grandparents worked  
15 for and my parents and my children as well. Now  
16 I find myself being called anti-Semitic because I  
17 oppose annexation of all land into the Village of  
18 Kiryas Joel. I reject that accusation with my  
19 whole being. I am not anti-Semitic. I am not  
20 anti-Hasidic. What I am against is the existence  
21 of a bureaucratic government within this country  
22 founded on freedom of religion. Isn't that why  
23 the Pilgrims came here? Isn't that why my  
24 grandparents came here? My guess is that's why  
25 the Satmars came here. It is clear that I am not

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2 welcome in Kiryas Joel as a resident. Even as a  
3 visitor I am told by a sign at the entrance how  
4 to dress, who to talk to and who not to touch.  
5 These signs say to me go away, you're not wanted  
6 here. There are many Hasidim living outside the  
7 confines of Kiryas Joel but I know of no one  
8 living within KJ who is not Hasidic. That is  
9 discrimination. That infringes on my right to  
10 live where I want and practice my moral  
11 principles as I see fit.

12 Finally, as I understand the Constitution  
13 of the U.S. and New York State, no government  
14 shall establish or favor one religion over  
15 another or none at all. The protection of  
16 people's rights to worship as they wish does not  
17 mean that the rest of the community has to give  
18 up their own rights. We too are meant to be free  
19 to live in an area we have chosen with a strong  
20 public school system and a great diversity --

21 MR. WELLS: Time is up.

22 MR. STEPINOFF: -- a healthy environment.  
23 It is not anti-Semitism that inspires my  
24 opposition to the annexation --

25 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Time is up. Thank you

1 PUBLIC HEARING

2 very much.

3 MR. STEPINOFF: -- but rather the total  
4 disregard of the rights of those --

5 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you.

6 MR. STEPINOFF: -- and have my children  
7 live in this area too.

8 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you.

9 -- the next speaker, please.

10 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is William  
11 Badura.

12 MR. BADURA: Good evening. My name is  
13 William Badura, I'm with the firm of Kornfeld,  
14 Rew, Newman & Simeone. We're attorneys for the  
15 Monroe Joint Fire District. I'm here tonight to  
16 put on the record Monroe Joint Fire District's  
17 opposition both to the DGEIS and the annexation.

18 Currently Monroe Joint Fire District is  
19 the fire prevention -- or fire provider for this  
20 annexed area. With the annexation, if it goes  
21 through, will remain the fire services provider  
22 for that area. But most certainly, pursuant to  
23 Section 182 of the Town Law, someone is going to  
24 petition the Monroe Town Board to change that  
25 boundary, to have it go within the KJ fire

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2 protection and their fire department. The Monroe  
3 Joint Fire District's primary concern with that  
4 potential of the annexed portion coming into the  
5 KJ fire department is that they lack interior  
6 firefighters to fight interior fires. As a  
7 result, it's inevitable that there's going to be  
8 an abuse of the mutual aid system which will  
9 require the Monroe Joint Fire District and it's  
10 over 100 volunteer firefighters to respond to the  
11 KJ Village area and provide fire prevention.

12 So again, based on the primary concern of  
13 the lack of interior firefighters that the KJ  
14 fire department has and we anticipate will  
15 continue not to have interior firefighters, it  
16 would be an abuse to the mutual aid system and  
17 pose a risk to the volunteers and an undue burden  
18 on them in the Monroe Joint Fire District. Thank  
19 you. *FGES Chapter 3.38 Response 6 to 9*

20 SUPERVISOR DOLES: The next speaker,  
21 please.

22 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Emily  
23 Convers. Emily Convers, followed by Dan  
24 Casiricone, followed by Steven Welle.

25 MS. CONVERS: Segregation distorts the

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2 soul and damages the personality. It gives the  
3 segregator a false sense of superiority and the  
4 segregated a false sense of inferiority. Martin  
5 Luther King Junior. The difference between de  
6 jure and de facto segregation is the difference  
7 between open forthright bigotry and the shame  
8 based kind that works through unwritten  
9 agreements between real estate dealers, school  
10 officials and local politicians. Shirley Chism.  
11 She was an African American congresswoman  
12 representing New York's twelfth congressional  
13 district for seven terms from 1969 to 1983.  
14 These quotes of course relate to the segregation  
15 which occurred in the United States prior to and  
16 in the midst of the civil rights movement in the  
17 1960s.

18 Here I stand today in Kiryas Joel  
19 wondering why our local politicians are ready to  
20 allow a real estate developer and KJ's leaders to  
21 further the cause for segregation right here in  
22 Monroe. Religion is being used as a reason for  
23 this, and religion is being used as a weapon  
24 against the non-Satmar in our community. Replace  
25 the term non-Satmar with blacks and you will

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2 understand the meaning of the discrimination the  
3 people of Monroe are feeling today.

4 Mayor Weider and Mr. Segatin were in  
5 Albany last week fighting against the two  
6 annexation bills which were passed in the  
7 assembly this week. These bills would allow for  
8 more environmental oversight in the annexation  
9 process. Mayor Weider delivered a letter to each  
10 assembly member inviting them to come and visit  
11 and understand the culture of KJ. In his letter  
12 Mayor Weider suggested that because of the  
13 culture of KJ and the need for young married  
14 couples to live near their mother, Weider was  
15 simply working to accommodate his people. What  
16 does your culture have to do with disobeying the  
17 laws of the land? Nowhere in State annexation  
18 law does culture or religion come into play, nor  
19 should it. It's not your job as the mayor of a  
20 municipality to provide for the religious or  
21 cultural needs of your citizens. Your job is to  
22 create good government, to keep your roads safe  
23 and clean, to balance your budget, follow the law  
24 of the land, the laws of the New York State  
25 Constitution and the Constitution of the United

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2 States.

3 KJ, the Village, ironically was formed not  
4 long after the civil rights movement and after  
5 segregation ended. Since then the Village of KJ  
6 leaders have been actively carving out what the  
7 leaders themselves refer to as a holy city  
8 consisting of people of only one color, one  
9 faith. This institutionalized segregation is  
10 illegal and those of us who are not born into  
11 this faith, this color, this culture, must stand  
12 aside, move aside and succumb to the wishes of  
13 the --

14 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

15 MS. CONVERS: -- orchestrating these land  
16 grabs.

17 Withdraw the annexation petitions for the  
18 sake of those people who live, work, love,  
19 survive and breathe around you. Withdraw the  
20 annexation petitions for the good of your own  
21 citizens who suffer more than you may ever know  
22 from segregation and an extreme lack of education  
23 which would allow your citizens to become more  
24 productive members of society.

25 I'll leave you with a quote from Mia

1 PUBLIC HEARING

2 Angelu. "In so many ways segregation shaped me  
3 and education liberated me."

4 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you. The next  
5 speaker, please.

6 MR. CASTRICONE: Dan Castricone, Town of  
7 Tuxedo. I live downstream. I'm very happy to be  
8 able to make it here tonight. Unfortunately the  
9 last meeting that was held was in an ice storm  
10 that to me was absurd to go along with the  
11 meeting. I made lots of phone calls that night,  
12 even calling the county executive. Steve, how  
13 can they have this meeting. It's like Dan,  
14 there's nothing I can do, I know it's crazy. I  
15 would have to tell you that it's a slap in the  
16 face to those of us here who are really concerned  
17 about the environment and what's going on that  
18 you held the meeting at a time when you knew no  
19 one could come.

20 We hold these truths to be self evident  
21 that all men are created equal. I believe that.  
22 I think they meant it when they wrote it. We  
23 look at the services that you're looking to have  
24 provided for you. I have a daughter. I have a  
25 nice big piece of land in the Town Of Tuxedo. I



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2 would love to have my daughter be able to build a  
3 house next to mine. We have two acres at the end  
4 of a dead-end street. I'd love to have the town  
5 subdivide my property for me and allow me to  
6 build a house. But you know what. There's  
7 nothing that special about me that the Town of  
8 Tuxedo should let me subsidize my property  
9 against all of the zoning. There's nothing  
10 special about me. There's nothing special about  
11 you either. There's nothing special about any of  
12 us. We are all created equal. It's not up to  
13 the government to decide how we're going to  
14 provide these services in areas that aren't part  
15 of the Town. How we're going to pull in areas  
16 into the annexation area.

17 The Ramapo River is not anti-Semitic. The  
18 Ramapo River doesn't care where the effluent  
19 comes from. The people who live in Mahwah and  
20 Rockland County, the people whose wells are  
21 recharged by the Ramapo River don't care where  
22 the effluent came from. The river simply can not  
23 hold any more effluent. You can't put any more  
24 in the river. Response 3.5.8-2 and 3

25 Finally, we bring up lots and very brave

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2 young ladies to come up and speak. I'm very,  
3 very impressed, very proud of them. These people  
4 that want to have their properties annexed --

5 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

6 MR. CASTRICONE: -- first I would like to  
7 know what the response was from the Town Board  
8 when you asked them to put in sidewalks and  
9 lights. What was the vote? I would like to know  
10 how you guys voted for that. Or when you asked  
11 them to provide police services, how they voted  
12 for that. Also, the people who stand to make  
13 millions of dollars because they bought a piece  
14 of property that was zoned for one family and now  
15 they'll be able to build an apartment building  
16 and condos and sell those properties, why don't  
17 we talk about that.

18 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you, Mr.  
19 Castricone.

20 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Steve  
21 Welle, followed by Bruce Chichester.

22 MR. WELLE: Good evening. My name is  
23 Steve Welle. I've been a resident of the Village  
24 of Harriman for the past thirty-eight years and  
25 I've served on the Village Board since 1997.

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2 I've been the mayor since 2001. Having lived in  
3 the area for thirty-eight years and through my  
4 experience on the Village Board I have several  
5 major concerns, and I am adamantly opposed to the  
6 proposed unsustainable 507 and 164 acre  
7 annexation from the Town of Monroe to the Village  
8 of Kiryas Joel.

9 I'm also under the opinion that this  
10 public hearing is illegal due to the fact that  
11 the court has not ruled on the sequence of events  
12 of the three annexations, the proposed 507 and  
13 164 acre from Town of Monroe into Kiryas Joel and  
14 the proposed 336 acre annexation into south  
15 Blooming Grove. New York State General Municipal  
16 Law Section 239 L, M and N require that certain  
17 land use actions being reviewed under local  
18 zoning, site plan and subdivision regulations, be  
19 referred to a county planning agency for review  
20 and comment on aspects of the proposal that are  
21 of county wide or intermunicipal significance.  
22 The Village of Kiryas Joel has a history of  
23 consistently ignoring the Section 239 reviews  
24 which are required of all municipalities. This  
25 shows their complete lack of respect and caring

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2 for the surrounding communities.

3 The April 29, 2015 DGEIS transmitted by  
4 Tim Miller Associates states that the population  
5 of Kiryas Joel will continue to grow regardless  
6 of this annexation being approved or not. In all  
7 other communities in Orange County new  
8 development is based on available resources and  
9 infrastructure. The Village of Kiryas Joel has  
10 made it very apparent in this DEIS that they plan  
11 on continuing to allow new construction without  
12 any regard for the availability of water and  
13 sewer resources. Several years ago when there  
14 was a moratorium on sewer connections in Orange  
15 County's sewer district number one, Kiryas Joel  
16 continued to allow new construction and sewer  
17 connections while the other communities in the  
18 districts abided by the moratorium. This is  
19 another indication in their history of their lack  
20 of respect for the law or desire to get along  
21 with their neighbors. DGEIS/FG EIS Chapter 3.5

22 The Village of Harriman residents have had  
23 to endure years of odor issues at the Harriman  
24 wastewater treatment plant. Increased flows  
25 created by the explosive growth of Kiryas Joel or

1 PUBLIC HEARING

2 any other community is going to --

3 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

4 MR. WELLE: -- exasperate this problem.

5 In addition to the odors at this plant, as  
6 this plant nears capacity there is a great  
7 concern as to what happens when the new  
8 construction causes the plant to be overcapacity.  
9 At times over the past several years this has  
10 been the case, and every one has had to share in  
11 the fines, not just the one causing the problem.

12 Village of Harriman has experienced  
13 elevated chloride levels in wells along the  
14 Ramapo over the past few years.

15 MR. WELLS: Mr. Welle, your time is up.

16 MR. WELLE: I will submit the rest. Thank  
17 you.

18 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you. The next  
19 speaker, please.

20 MR. WELLS: Bruce Chichester, followed by  
21 Rich Cannava, followed by Lorraine McNeil.

22 MR. CHICHESTER: Bruce Chichester, Village  
23 of Harriman trustee and former mayor. There are  
24 many points in the DGEIS prepared by Tim Miller  
25 Associates which are questionable, which is not

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2 surprising. There have been numerous actions  
3 taken by the Village of Kiryas Joel leaders over  
4 the last several years that have most of us  
5 asking what is happening here. Unfortunately,  
6 due to their past actions of noncompliance and  
7 disregard for their neighbors, there is no  
8 confidence that this is an honest and accurate  
9 reflection of the potential impacts which this  
10 annexation would have on the area. Given their  
11 history why shouldn't we expect to see  
12 multi-story apartment units even though this  
13 possibility doesn't appear to be addressed in the  
14 DEIS? The DGEIS does not reflect the impact on  
15 the local volunteer fire departments. Currently  
16 the Kiryas Joel volunteer fire department relies  
17 on the surrounding volunteer fire departments for  
18 mutual aid. It is safe to assume that the number  
19 of structure fires would also increase, putting  
20 another unreasonable demand on our volunteers.  
21 Why wasn't this addressed? (Same as above)

22 The DGEIS claims that because the Hasidic  
23 women do not drive the traffic impacts will be  
24 minimal. If the population increases at just the  
25 conservative rate indicated in the DGEIS, there

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2 will be a dramatic increase in traffic due to the  
3 increased services to serve the additional  
4 population. There is more to traffic than just  
5 personal vehicles. A recent study done by the  
6 Southeast Orange County Traffic Task Force warned  
7 of the potential of violations of the Federal  
8 Clean Air Standards with a modest to significant  
9 increase in traffic in the affected areas.

DGEIS/FGIEIS  
Chapter 3.4-8

10 Although the DGEIS states that the  
11 residents of Kiryas Joel do not utilize several  
12 programs operated by the County, the majority of  
13 Orange County residents do not utilize most of  
14 these programs. Actually, most of the population  
15 outside of Kiryas Joel support their families  
16 without expecting the government to subsidize  
17 them.

18 The Village of Kiryas Joel filed a SEQRA  
19 document several years ago regarding the proposed  
20 water pipeline connection to New York City  
21 aqueduct. The findings in this SEQRA document  
22 were based on an eighteen-inch main. When the  
23 installation commenced, a twenty-four inch main  
24 was installed, dramatically increasing their  
25 capacity which was not addressed by SEQRA. Why

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2 should we believe any actions involving this  
3 proposed annexation would be handled properly?

4 It is possible that the Town of Monroe  
5 Board is going to vote against this annexation  
6 because they know the decision will ultimately  
7 wind up in a court to be decided. Don't let  
8 these Board Members deceive you regardless of  
9 their vote. They have not had the common  
10 courtesy to communicate with the Village of  
11 Harriman regarding how this potential annexation  
12 would affect the Harriman wastewater treatment  
13 plant --

14 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

15 MR. CHICHESTER: -- even though the issue  
16 is common knowledge. It appears that the Town  
17 Board is not interested in the quality of life of  
18 the majority of the people in this Town. The  
19 potential annexation, if approved, would be  
20 extremely detrimental to the Village of Harriman  
21 and the surrounding area. The Village of Kiryas  
22 Joel needs to consider the environmental and  
23 economic impacts before permitting additional  
24 construction of housing units like other  
25 communities do. Thank you for your time.



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2 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Rich  
3 Cannava, followed by Lorraine McNeil.

4 MR. CANNAVA: Rich Cannava, director of  
5 Preserve Hudson Valley. I would like to open by  
6 stating that the entire SEQRA process is utterly  
7 flawed. Granting lead agency over a municipal  
8 annexation of this magnitude to the very party  
9 that initialized the annexation request and needs  
10 the annexation and its subsequent development to  
11 repay debts is as good as leaving a wolf to watch  
12 the chickens. It's insulting and ludicrous, and  
13 hopefully the bill sponsored by James Skoufis and  
14 Carl Brabenec will solve that issue.

15 All that being said, I'm here to speak for  
16 the environment because none of you sitting  
17 before me will. I want to talk about the water  
18 supply. Section 3.5.1 of the DGEIS, existing  
19 conditions water supply. This entire section  
20 should be disregarded and a supplemental EIS must  
21 be prepared as stated in section 617.10 D 4 of  
22 the State Environmental Quality Review Act. The  
23 findings in this section are all contingent upon  
24 Kiryas Joel's controversial pipeline hooking up  
25 to the New York City/Catskill aqueduct. Kiryas

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2 Joel does not contain the necessary permits for  
3 this action and it is not a foregone conclusion  
4 that these permits will be granted. In fact, a  
5 resolution was passed by the County of Orange  
6 Legislature in 2013 that requires the Village of  
7 Kiryas Joel to retain a permit authorizing the  
8 Village to use the water that the pipeline is  
9 being built for prior to continuing the  
10 construction of the pipeline. You should know  
11 that already, seeing as how you filed a lawsuit  
12 challenging the resolution.

13 Back to section 3.5.1. The purpose of  
14 this section is to prove that you can provide  
15 water to the people who would live in the  
16 potentially annexed land. Clearly this section  
17 was not adequately addressed and must be looked  
18 at again without considering the hook up to the  
19 aqueduct since this may very well never take  
20 place. What would happen if the annexation takes  
21 place but the hook up to the aqueduct does not?

22 In section 617.9 B 1 of SEQRA it states an  
23 EIS must assemble relevant and material facts  
24 upon which an agency's decision is to be made.  
25 It must analyze the significant adverse impacts

Response 3.5.7-1

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2 and evaluate all reasonable alternatives. So I  
3 ask you, what is your alternative to supply water  
4 should the hookup to the aqueduct not be  
5 permitted?

6 It is also required by the New York City  
7 Administrative Code that the Village maintain 100  
8 percent backup for the volume of water it will  
9 take from the aqueduct, yet in section 3.5.1 you  
10 state, and I quote, "Once the aqueduct connection  
11 is made, it is anticipated that the Village will  
12 have groundwater wells with sufficient capacity  
13 to maintain the volume allowed to be drawn from  
14 the Catskill aqueduct."

15 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

16 MR. CANNAVA: So in order to hook up to  
17 the aqueduct, the Village of Kiryas Joel must  
18 first prove it can provide a hundred percent back  
19 up. In order to prove this it must first hook up  
20 to the aqueduct. I mean you can't write this  
21 stuff. It seems like there's a lot riding on  
22 hooking up to the aqueduct, something you openly  
23 state in the DGEIS you currently do not have the  
24 permits to do. I quote, "The City of New York  
25 must still provide final engineering approval for

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2 the proposed Village connection to the Catskill  
3 aqueduct." So it's not only the SEQRA process  
4 that is utterly flawed but your unconvincing and  
5 suspect argument. *Response 3.5.7-1*

6 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you, sir. The  
7 next speaker, please.

8 MS. McNEIL: Should I wait for the absent  
9 Board Members to come back? There's two Board  
10 Members missing, the gentleman next to Mr. Doles  
11 and the gentleman down there.

12 SUPERVISOR DOLES: I have no problem  
13 waiting if that's --

14 MS. McNEIL: I think we should wait until  
15 they come back, don't you?

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. McNEIL: Okay.

18 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Ladies and gentlemen,  
19 we're going to adjourn for five minutes and give  
20 them a chance to be able to, and for everybody.  
21 This has been -- what, we're into the second  
22 hour. We'll give everybody a couple minutes to  
23 be able to attend to their --

24 Ms. McNEIL: And then hopefully every  
25 single Board Member will be here and give us the

1 PUBLIC HEARING

2 courtesy.

3 SUPERVISOR DOLES: And hopefully all the  
4 public will be. Thank you.

5 MS. McNEIL: I will wait for five minutes.  
6 Thank you.

7 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Ladies and gentlemen,  
8 we're going to take a recess for five minutes.  
9 Thank you.

10 (A recess was taken from 8:14 p.m.  
11 until 8:23 p.m.)

12 MR. WELLS: Let's sit down so we can  
13 continue. Let's sit down so we can continue  
14 this. We have a lot of people who want to speak  
15 still. The next speaker is ready to speak.

16 Next speaker, Lorraine McNeil.

17 Please sit down. Quiet please. Please sit  
18 down and we will continue the hearing.

19 Ms. McNeil, you're going to need to  
20 continue anyway. There will be a written record  
21 of what you say.

22 MS. McNEIL: Is this on? Okay. We still  
23 have missing Board Members, including the  
24 Supervisor.

25 Supervisor Doles, would you please come

1 PUBLIC HEARING

2 back?

3 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Ladies and gentlemen,  
4 if you can be seated and we'll restart the public  
5 hearing.

6 MS. McNEIL: And that was a well needed  
7 break, wasn't it?

8 SUPERVISOR DOLES: That being said, please  
9 note for the future that if the Board Members are  
10 not present, that a videotape and transcription  
11 will be provided. There's no need to have to, in  
12 case there's an emergency, either personal or for  
13 a private reason, that if a Board Member isn't  
14 here that we would have to stop. I thought this  
15 was a good time and I thank you very much.

16 MS. McNEIL: So it wasn't personal?

17 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Well I don't know. I  
18 didn't ask. That being said, please continue.

19 Ladies and gentlemen, our next speaker  
20 is --

21 MS. McNEIL: Lorraine McNeil, Town of  
22 Woodbury. I want to thank you gentlemen, Mr.  
23 Supervisor, Mr. Mayor, for your time this  
24 evening. I really appreciate it. It is a nice  
25 evening because there's no snowstorm.

## 1 PUBLIC HEARING

2                   Basically why are we here tonight? We're  
3 here for two reasons. To discuss the DGEIS but  
4 also to ensure even application of the law for  
5 all communities. There are two annexations being  
6 considered here. One is for 164 acres, the other  
7 for 507 acres which includes part of a County  
8 park where a previous water tower request by the  
9 Village was denied. Since the 164 acre  
10 annexation is a segment of the 507 acre request,  
11 and segmentation is contrary to New York State  
12 law, it should be dismissed if all parties wish  
13 to comply with the law. The New York State  
14 Constitution Article 9 section 1 D states  
15 Annexation Law, Article 17 -- Article 17, excuse  
16 me, of the General Municipal Law and prevailing  
17 case law clearly indicate that annexation must be  
18 in the overall public interest. That means the  
19 overall public interest of all the involved and  
20 interested communities, not just the public  
21 interest of one municipality. So how does it  
22 benefit Monroe, or for that matter Woodbury,  
23 Blooming Grove and the County to have a city  
24 foisted upon them? Because that's what we're  
25 talking about here.

## 1 PUBLIC HEARING

2                   And please note smart growth involves more  
3                   than sidewalks and public transportation. It  
4                   involves open space and wise use of resources and  
5                   no reliance on taxis as public transportation.  
6                   Is it in the overall public interest for one  
7                   municipality to impose its lifestyle on its  
8                   neighbors through a hostile takeover? Quoting  
9                   from the document, it says, "In the future,  
10                  whether or not the proposed annexation land --  
11                  annexation land becomes part of the Village of  
12                  Kiryas Joel, it will likely be developed to  
13                  accommodate the projected population growth."  
14                  This means high-density housing. So is this  
15                  annexation an attempt to circumvent current  
16                  zoning? That's also illegal under New York State  
17                  law.

DGEIS/FGES Chapter 3.1  
and Response 2-13

18                  The current zoning in the 507 acres does  
19                  not in any way restrict the practice of any  
20                  religion, it just restricts the intense build-  
21                  out. Surely religious worship is recognized  
22                  whether you're in an apartment or in a private  
23                  home, and surely it's recognized whether you  
24                  drive a car or not. Is it in the overall public  
25                  interest to develop housing to the point where



1 PUBLIC HEARING

2 you exceed the capacity of natural and other  
3 resources? As my Irish grandmother used to say,  
4 you can't --

5 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

6 MS. McNEIL: -- shove ten pounds of  
7 potatoes in a five-pound sack. That's what the  
8 Village is trying to do here in regards to sewer  
9 capacity.

10 There are numerous issues not addressed  
11 regarding water supply which is inadequate  
12 currently and will be even more so if the  
13 annexation goes through. There are issues not  
14 addressed regarding interbase and transfers that  
15 will help the Ramapo Basin but stress the already  
16 stressed Moodna Basin, issues like increased  
17 runoff due to increased impervious surfaces.

18 It is frequently asserted throughout the  
19 document --

20 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Your time it up.

21 MS. McNEIL: I'll finish the one sentence.  
22 It is frequently asserted throughout the document  
23 that the anticipated exponential growth is  
24 natural, but it does not include the growth due  
25 to the influx of Satmar from Brooklyn.

DGEIS/FGEIS Chapters

1 PUBLIC HEARING

2 Please consider that and vote no on this  
3 annexation.

4 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you, Ms. McNeil.

5 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Karl  
6 Brabenec, followed by James Skoufis, followed by  
7 Dor Hikind.

8 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Assemblyman Brabenec,  
9 thank you for attending.

10 MR. BRABENEC: Thank you, Mr.  
11 Supervisor, Mr. Mayor, Board Members. Thank you  
12 for having me here tonight.

13 As a member of the assembly for the 98th  
14 Assembly District I represent nearly 40,000  
15 people in the Town of Monroe, including the  
16 Village of Kiryas Joel.

17 I'm here tonight to say, like I have said  
18 many times before, that this community needs  
19 peace. We need to be good neighbors to each  
20 other. Unfortunately the government of Kiryas  
21 Joel has not acted as a good neighbor for quite  
22 some time. In fact, it's been nothing but a  
23 self-serving neighbor, and your neighbors in the  
24 Town of Monroe and the whole of Orange County are  
25 rightly upset.

1 PUBLIC HEARING

2           Furthermore, you are elected officials so  
3 you have a responsibility to accept criticism  
4 without name calling. Baseless charges of  
5 anti-Semitism, talk of our way or the highway, it  
6 only serves to insult your neighbors and punish  
7 both sides further apart.

8           Make no mistake that this isn't about your  
9 customs and it's not about your religion or your  
10 way of life. It's about your behavior. It must  
11 stop. Your neighbors have valid concerns and the  
12 questions must be heard. Your neighbors in  
13 Monroe, Tuxedo and Warwick want peace, and I know  
14 that you want peace. So we must understand and  
15 you must understand that since the year 2000 the  
16 Village of Kiryas Joel has grown nearly seventy  
17 percent, what The New York Times termed a break  
18 neck rate that has created struggles for the  
19 other residents in Orange County, especially in  
20 the Town of Monroe. How can Orange County keep  
21 pace? How will it afford infrastructure demands  
22 and increased traffic, and how will we deal with  
23 the environmental impact, including massive  
24 increase of waste into the Ramapo River? How  
25 will we afford the rising cost of Social Services

1 PUBLIC HEARING

2 for a population already 93 percent enrolled in  
3 Medicaid? These are very valid questions, very  
4 valid questions and difficult questions, but  
5 they must be answered. And so far there's been a  
6 refusal to answer them.

7 So now we want to double or triple in size  
8 the Village of Kiryas Joel, yet we still haven't  
9 gotten these answers. You're asking your  
10 neighbors to roll over and do what you want  
11 without question, -- DGEIS/FGES Chapters 3.4+  
3.5

12 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

13 MR. BRABENEC: -- and that's not how you  
14 achieve peace and it's not how good neighbors  
15 behavior.

16 Because you've sought to exclude or ignore  
17 the neighbors, I join with my colleagues,  
18 Assemblyman Skoufis to pass legislation at the  
19 State level that will give your neighbors a say  
20 in this process. Our bill just passed the  
21 assembly and it's now in the senate. It  
22 shouldn't have been necessary but it was because  
23 we need these answers.

24 I implore you, Mayor Weider and the  
25 members of the Village Board, please withdraw

1 PUBLIC HEARING

2 your annexation petition, sit down and negotiate  
3 in good faith. Your neighbors will be heard by  
4 the planning board or by the courts, but one way  
5 or another you can not silence the people.

6 Thank you.

7 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you, Assemblyman.  
8 Next speaker, please.

9 MR. WELLS: James Skoufis.

10 MR. SKOUFIS: Good evening and thank you  
11 for the opportunity to speak. My name is James  
12 Skoufis and I represent the 99th District in the  
13 New York State Assembly.

14 Let me first say, Village officials, I  
15 know you and your lobbyists have spent the past  
16 few weeks feverishly working to defeat  
17 legislation that will bring accountability to  
18 this annexation process. I'm proud to say that I  
19 serve in the assembly because this week we did  
20 the right thing and overwhelmingly passed  
21 legislation 110 to 33. I know Senator Larkin is  
22 making these bills a top priority and is working  
23 very hard to pass them in his chamber before the  
24 legislature recesses.

25 Let me speak about this annexation process

1 PUBLIC HEARING

2 the Village of Kiryas Joel has conducted. To  
3 start, is this public hearing for the 164 acre  
4 petition or the 507 acre petition? How are both  
5 of these public hearings happening at the same  
6 time? To make it very clear for the record, you  
7 have given every person here a wholly inadequate  
8 ninety seconds to comment on each of these two  
9 petitions, not three minutes. Likewise, here we  
10 are tonight, and it is a sham that we are holding  
11 such a critical public hearing at a venue with a  
12 few dozen parking spaces outside. It is a sham  
13 that an important scoping session was held in the  
14 middle of an ice storm. And this DGEIS is a sham  
15 from beginning to end for projecting population a  
16 mere ten years out, totally ignoring any build  
17 out of the proposed annexed land, effectively  
18 ignoring sewer capacity issues, and presenting a  
19 suspect if not illegal plan for water using the  
20 Mountainville well field. DGEIS/FGIEIS Chapters  
2.0, 3.1 + Response 2-2.  
21 Let me reflect on the biggest sham of all  
22 for the transcript and likely the judge that will  
23 ultimately read the transcript of this hearing.  
24 Kiryas Joel officials have steadfastly maintained  
25 that these proposed annexations were

1 PUBLIC HEARING

2 independently driven by homeowners and landowners  
3 and that the Village government is an unbiased  
4 actor and has no control over the petitions, yet  
5 one of, if not the biggest, landowner involved in  
6 the petitions is Vod Hikuria, the development arm  
7 of the Village's governing faction. This is the  
8 same development company that was established by  
9 former Village trustee and both planning and  
10 zoning board chairman Myra Hirsch. This is also  
11 the same company that current Village Mayor  
12 Weider was the president of in the 1990s. Make  
13 no mistake this is all about rezoning, all about  
14 Vod Hikuria, making lots of money for a select  
15 few that run the Village government, and all  
16 about paying for a water pipeline loan that  
17 Kiryas Joel can not otherwise afford to pay back.

18 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds, sir.

19 MR. SKOUFIS: These annexations have been  
20 orchestrated from start to finish by Kiryas  
21 Joel's government and have nothing to do with  
22 independent homeowners or, from the perspective  
23 of the Village, the overall public interest.

24 If either of these annexations proceed;  
25 Town and Village Board Members, you will find

1 PUBLIC HEARING

2 yourselves in court at great taxpayer expense,  
3 and I predict you will lose. So I ask that you  
4 not take us down that perilous road and reject  
5 both annexation petitions.

6 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you, Assemblyman.

7 MR. SKOUFIS: Once the petitions are  
8 rejected --

9 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Assemblyman, thank you.

10 MR. SKOUFIS: I have two sentences left.

11 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Assemblyman,  
12 Assemblyman, time is up. Thank you, sir.

13 MR. SKOUFIS: I'll submit the rest in  
14 written comments. Thank you.

15 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Mr. Wells, may we have  
16 the next speaker, please.

17 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Dov Hikind  
18 please.

19 MR. HIKIND: My name is Assemblyman Dov  
20 Hikind and I represent some neighbors in  
21 Brooklyn. And those people who live in those  
22 neighborhoods, people who live in this area of  
23 Kiryas Joel, everyone has family here.

24 I have to tell you that, you know, the  
25 undertone -- and this is the first time that I'm



1 PUBLIC HEARING

2 listening to one of these. The undertone that  
3 went on here tonight for me is very, very  
4 disturbing. You are entitled to find every  
5 single excuse you want to. By the way, like the  
6 people in Bloomingburg, the leaders of that  
7 community who now have been found by a federal  
8 judge --

9 THE PUBLIC: Address the Board.

10 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Excuse me. If you call  
11 out you will be ejected.

12 THE PUBLIC: Address the Board.

13 MR. HIKIND: Can I finish?

14 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Ladies and gentlemen,  
15 ladies and gentlemen.

16 MR. HIKIND: Let me finish. I'm talking  
17 about --

18 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Assemblyman,  
19 Assemblyman, I'm going to interrupt you.

20 The assemblyman is going to be given the  
21 courtesy that Mr. Skoufis as well as Assemblyman  
22 -- as well as -- otherwise we will adjourn again.  
23 We will have civil order --

24 MR. HIKIND: I think --

25 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Excuse me. We will

1 PUBLIC HEARING

2 provide a modicum of respect to the assemblyman  
3 in the same capacity that we afforded the other  
4 assembly speakers.

5 I'm sorry, please continue.

6 THE PUBLIC: Address the Board.

7 MR. WELLS: Please address the Board.

8 THE PUBLIC: It's a public hearing.

9 MR. HIKIND: Excuse me. I can turn any  
10 way I want. Is that a rule too, I can't turn  
11 around? Is that another rule that you have?

12 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Assemblyman.

13 MR. HIKIND: I'll be happy to --

14 SUPERVISOR DOLES: We appreciate and we  
15 value --

16 MR. HIKIND: Let me --

17 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Ladies and gentlemen  
18 --

19 MR. HIKIND: Let me tell you what the  
20 problem is.

21 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Excuse me, Assemblyman.

22 Again, please remain seated. If you feel  
23 as though you have to get up, please go to the  
24 back of the room. We will not have anyone  
25 standing up in the seats. If you feel as though

1 PUBLIC HEARING

2 you need to stand up, stretch, whatever you want,  
3 please go to the back of the room.

4 We'll wait a couple moments.

5 (Pause.)

6 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Assemblyman, again  
7 we're going to try to continue. If I'm  
8 interrupted or you're interrupted or the public  
9 is interrupted, we will stop. So please  
10 continue.

11 MR. HIKIND: There's a problem here that a  
12 lot of people in this community, I'm not talking  
13 about Kiryas Joel. If you look at the Hasidim  
14 here, they're very different from you. They look  
15 different. They don't go to the same restaurants  
16 that you go to. They don't even go to your  
17 bowling alleys. I do. They don't. Their  
18 lifestyle is very different, you know. When some  
19 of the people who spoke here said they had eleven  
20 children, I could hear the ugh. Earlier this  
21 evening when the conversation was about would you  
22 prefer that people live all over Orange County,  
23 there was cheering here. It's like yes, we don't  
24 want these Hasidim to live together. That's a  
25 problem. Let them live all over.

1 PUBLIC HEARING

2 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Assemblyman, I'm going  
3 to interrupt you.

4 Would you escort the gentleman that's  
5 standing outside please. The gentleman sitting  
6 in the second row. The gentleman here, please  
7 escort him outside.

8 THE PUBLIC: No, no, no.

9 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Please escort him  
10 outside. Please escort him outside. Thank you.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I did nothing  
12 wrong.

13 (Pause in the proceedings.)

14 SUPERVISOR DOLES: We're not doing that.  
15 I had asked for everyone to remain seated.  
16 We're going to hold off, ladies and gentlemen,  
17 until this is resolved.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Excuse me. I'm his  
19 attorney. If you escort him out this entire  
20 hearing is invalid.

21 SUPERVISOR DOLES: I'm sorry, sir?

22 (Inaudible discussion.)

23 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Again, we have asked  
24 everyone to remain seated.

25 Sir, you're counsel for the gentleman?

1 PUBLIC HEARING

2 Can you assure me that he's going to remain  
3 seated? That seems to be a reasonable  
4 accommodation so we can proceed. On your  
5 assurance, sir, we're going to continue. Thank  
6 you.

7 Assemblyman, give us a moment.

8 The security can step back, please.

9 Assemblyman, please continue.

10 MR. HIKIND: Okay. I just want to mention  
11 that the issue is not annexation. The issue is  
12 keeping the Orthodox, in particular the Hasidim,  
13 out of the community. That's what this is all  
14 about.

15 By the way, by the way, the federal judge  
16 in Bloomingburg said that there was a clear  
17 attempt to keep Hasidic Jews out of that  
18 community. That's exactly what was going on in  
19 Bloomingburg. A federal judge only a couple of  
20 days ago.

21 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Ladies and gentlemen,  
22 please, again. Otherwise we will have another  
23 adjournment. Please allow the assemblyman to  
24 speak. We paid our respect to the assemblyman --

25 MR. HIKIND: By the way, I disagreed with

1 PUBLIC HEARING

2 a lot of the comments and things I heard from the  
3 audience. I didn't get up and yell at anybody.  
4 I don't know why you can't give me the --

5 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Assemblyman, I'm  
6 speaking, sir. Again, we're going to have quiet  
7 in this room or else we're not going to continue.  
8 So please continue.

9 MR. HIKIND: I would like to urge  
10 everyone, the community of Kiryas Joel is an  
11 amazing community. Not perfect like your  
12 communities. Not perfect. People make mistakes.

13 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Ladies and gentlemen,  
14 again. We're asking you to let the assemblyman  
15 speak.

16 MR. HIKIND: This community is growing as  
17 has been pointed out. There's no question it  
18 will continue to grow, and no one is going to  
19 stop that growth, and it's going to be done the  
20 right way. The community will continue to grow  
21 contiguous to KJ. And I would urge everyone, we  
22 can avoid a lot of aggravation if everyone would  
23 work together, find a way, start a new chapter as  
24 of tonight, try to make things work for the sake  
25 of everyone. At the end of the day KJ is

1 PUBLIC HEARING

2 growing, will continue to grow. Let's do it  
3 peacefully. This is America. You can find all  
4 the excuses in the world, all the reasons of the  
5 world why it's not going to work, --

6 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

7 MR. HIKIND: -- all the things they've  
8 done wrong. But let's work together. This is  
9 America. Thank you.

10 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Ziggy  
11 Brach.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I have a  
13 suggestion, and that is --

14 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Bear with me. I didn't  
15 catch your name.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: If you would ask  
17 the speakers to address the environmental impact  
18 statement rather than making provocative  
19 speeches, you would have a quieter crowd.

20 MR. WELLS: Mr. Ziggy Brach. Mr. Zigmund  
21 Brach.

22 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Ladies and gentlemen,  
23 if we can keep the room quiet so we can hear the  
24 next speaker.

25 MR. BRACH: Good evening. I'm the first

1 PUBLIC HEARING

2 one to start off with the county executive, the  
3 comments that he made. I'm going to hold out  
4 other Orange County elected officials. When they  
5 came to build a casino in Orange County or the  
6 extension of Woodbury Commons, nobody ever  
7 questioned the environmental impact or the  
8 traffic impact. That was all ignored.

9 Now let me go to my speech. Good evening,  
10 ladies and gentlemen, elected Town and Village  
11 Board Members. Since I only have three minutes  
12 please forgive me for skipping. I'll go straight  
13 to the point. You elected officials have an  
14 important decision to make. The naked eye sees  
15 something to do with annexation, environmental  
16 studies, but the cultural does not have anything  
17 to do with that. The decision which lies on your  
18 shoulders is much deeper and much more  
19 significant than annexing territory.

20 I bought a house in the Town of Woodbury  
21 which is near the Village of KJ thirty-five years  
22 ago. On returning one night home with my wife  
23 when she was pregnant I was greeted at my house,  
24 somebody broke in and there was swastikas sprayed  
25 all over the sofas and things were destroyed.



1 PUBLIC HEARING

2 I'm sure you're thinking that this changed in  
3 thirty-five years. Well let me tell you  
4 something, this was not something was -- this was  
5 not changed. The same thing happened to a friend  
6 of mine that had a house that was built about  
7 three years ago which was on the edge of the Town  
8 of Monroe and Blooming Grove by Cliff Road and  
9 Seven Springs. He showed up one morning and his  
10 windows were shattered and swastikas sprayed  
11 inside. This was a clear message not about a  
12 Village. No Village. This is simply we don't  
13 want you to live with us because we're a Jew.

14 I bought -- I applied for a subdivision in  
15 the Town of Monroe for 110 townhouses which would  
16 have been a nice neighborhood. I bought a water  
17 company to supply the water which was in  
18 Woodbury. The Woodbury board went first and  
19 adopted a law which said we can not -- you can  
20 not take out water for one municipality to the  
21 other.

22 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds, sir.

23 MR. BRACH: Of course I took it to the  
24 courts and the court ruled it was an  
25 unconstitutional local law. This doesn't mean

1 PUBLIC HEARING

2 they want us to live together in Orange County  
3 with them.

4 I think the county executive should  
5 realize that all the zoning variance was put up  
6 in Blooming Grove where a group of people want to  
7 make a nice community and now they have to take  
8 the 600 homes. We have the run around for ten  
9 years. The county executive --

10 MR. WELLS: Time is up, sir.

11 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Mr. Brach, thank you.  
12 Your time is over. Thank you, sir.

13 The next speaker, please.

14 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Veronica  
15 Connolly, followed by Joseph Scarmato, followed  
16 by John Allegro.

17 MS. CONNELLY: Good evening. Thank you.  
18 Since we've been getting a history lesson  
19 tonight, I am deeply offended by those tonight  
20 who continue to project anti-Semitic accusations  
21 against myself and others who reside outside the  
22 Village of Kiryas Joel. I had two grandfathers  
23 and countless uncles who have served --

24 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Ms. Connelly, if you  
25 could keep your voice down.

1 PUBLIC HEARING

2 MS. CONNELLY: -- in World War II.

3 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Please just temper your  
4 voice. Modulate it a little bit.

5 MS. CONNELLY: I will. If nobody  
6 interrupts me I won't raise it. Is that fair  
7 enough?

8 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Again, it was a concern  
9 with one of the speakers. I'm addressing the  
10 same concern with you.

11 MS. CONNELLY: That's fine. I won't --

12 SUPERVISOR DOLES: I apologize. You can  
13 set the clock back accordingly.

14 MS. CONNELLY: As long as nobody shouts at  
15 me I won't have to raise my voice. That's all.  
16 Thank you.

17 I had two grandfathers and several great  
18 uncles who served in the armed forces during  
19 World War II against Hitler and his Nazi army.  
20 My ancestors fought and countless servicemen died  
21 during that war against that fight. They did  
22 that for the freedom for the Jewish people in  
23 prison by Nazi Germany and Hitler. You have  
24 disgraced their honor by making anti-Semitic  
25 claims against people who are opposed to an

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2 annexation. This government continues to do that  
3 as it is represented by the flyers that were  
4 distributed today in Kiryas Joel. It was from  
5 Anash, which is the political arm of the  
6 government who promotes the current leaders of KJ  
7 and issues the instruction cards handed to the  
8 main faction KJ supporters outside the polling  
9 places in Kiryas Joel on election day. The Anash  
10 flyer warned the citizens of KJ not to speak to  
11 the press and not to receive any literature from  
12 the awful United Monroe. These flyers also  
13 promote the expansion of KJ's border and was  
14 clearly written to instill fear and disdain for  
15 the neighbors outside of KJ. This flyer was  
16 posted in congregations, yet -- I'm sorry for the  
17 pronunciation -- yetteclif. Anash has an address  
18 listed on the flyer. The address is 51 Forest  
19 Road, Kiryas Joel. Interestingly, the Kiryas  
20 Joel newspaper whose message is that of praise of  
21 the leaders of KJ and promotes the annexation and  
22 again shows disdain for United Monroe also has an  
23 address of 51 Forest Road in Kiryas Joel. KJ  
24 Consulting, the NSD which was formed to handle  
25 the annexation on behalf of the petitioners, also

1 PUBLIC HEARING

2 coincidentally has an address of 51 Forest Road  
3 in Kiryas Joel. And last but not least, the KJ  
4 government offices are located --

5 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

6 MS. CONNELLY: -- not to anyone's  
7 surprise, at 51 Forest Road in Kiryas Joel. Is  
8 it any wonder that the people are skeptical of  
9 Kiryas Joel performing a legitimate analysis on  
10 these annexations? Is it any surprise that this  
11 room is filled with people who understand the KJ  
12 government is orchestrating this land grab?  
13 Let's stop the charade right now. Withdraw the  
14 annexation petition, come to the table with  
15 respect for your neighbors, open mind and agree  
16 to an open dialogue.

17 MR. WELLS: Thank you.

18 SUPERVISOR DOLES: The next speaker,  
19 please.

20 MR. WELLS: Joseph Scarmato, followed by  
21 John Allegro.

22 MR. SCARMATO: Good evening, Mr.  
23 Supervisor, Mr. Mayor, Members of the Board. I'm  
24 an attorney and I happen to represent the United  
25 Talmudical Academy. It may seem strange that I

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2 came to represent them but I did so some twelve  
3 years ago. I'm here tonight only because I want  
4 to share with you some good news and some good  
5 intentions by some of the members of the  
6 community here which may have been overlooked by  
7 some of the members of the community at large.

8 I believe -- if you don't know what the  
9 UTA is, and I certainly didn't when I first came  
10 to this area, it's a religious and charitable  
11 organization that provides tuition-based  
12 education to the residents, the students and  
13 children of Kiryas Joel. Now, having  
14 approximately 8,000 children that they educate  
15 certainly relieves the burden on the larger town.  
16 They do it out of charity with donations. This  
17 is something that I think any religion or creed  
18 should subscribe to. This is generosity, this is  
19 moral behavior that I think all of us can  
20 subscribe to.

21 I see a lot of animosity here tonight.  
22 Quite frankly, I think all of us need to get  
23 together on issues. I'm sure the Village leaders  
24 understand why you have these feelings. Some of  
25 them are justified. But in my opinion you need

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2 to learn a little bit more about the people that  
3 are your neighbors at this point because I think  
4 it would help generally. I applaud the  
5 assemblyman for making that plea as well.

6 The UTA has been a stabilizing force in  
7 the Village, educating thousands of children.  
8 The children are generally well behaved. The  
9 children grow up to be good citizens. There's  
10 very low incidence of crime, a relatively low  
11 incidence of any kind of misbehavior, drug use  
12 that's in the general population. There are good  
13 things to be seen for this. These people are  
14 your neighbors, and they will be your neighbors,  
15 and you should value them only because they're  
16 well behaved members of the community that want  
17 to cooperate with you.

18 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds, sir.

19 MR. SCARMATO: I'd like to just urge the  
20 Board to consider that there are good points,  
21 there are good people in this community that need  
22 the assistance of these religious organizations,  
23 they need the social services, and I implore you  
24 to vote yes on the application for annexation.  
25 These services can be provided to the members of

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2 the applicants. Thank you.

3 MR. WELLS: John Allegro, followed by  
4 Mendel Wieder.

5 MR. ALLEGRO: Good evening.

6 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Ladies and gentlemen,  
7 please keep it down for the speaker.

8 MR. ALLEGRO: Black's Law Dictionary  
9 defines arbitrary and capricious as a willful and  
10 unreasonable action without consideration or a  
11 disregard of facts or law without determining  
12 principle. The Supreme Court of the United  
13 States of America ruled on several occasions that  
14 a Constitutional power can not be used by way of  
15 condition to attain an unconstitutional result.  
16 I mention these two principles because an  
17 abundance of case law speaks against the  
18 annexation of 507 or 164 acres from the Town of  
19 Monroe into Kiryas Joel, so much that even the  
20 most reckless and irresponsible of our municipal  
21 Board Members should find trouble voting in favor  
22 of either.

23 Quite notably, the United States Supreme  
24 Court overturned an annexation of predominantly  
25 African American populated areas out of the City



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2 of Tuskegee in 1960. Why? Because the State of  
3 Alabama abused it's Constitutional power to alter  
4 municipal boundaries in order to deny African  
5 Americans their right to vote under the 15th  
6 Amendment. Justice Whitiker, in a compelling  
7 opinion, noted that the fencing of negro citizens  
8 out of one municipality and into another is an  
9 unlawful segregation of races of citizens in  
10 violation of the equal protection clause of the  
11 14th Amendment. This is why the annexation map  
12 of 507 acres looks like a jigsaw puzzles with  
13 several pieces missing. The chaotic boundaries  
14 of an expanded KJ are all about ethnicity and  
15 religion. Residents inside the map include names  
16 such as Goldberger, Rock, Weider, Freund,  
17 Oppenheim. Names outside the map include those  
18 such as Cruz, Colon, Gom, Vargas, Oliveria. Non-  
19 white ethnic minorities. Also included are names  
20 such as Buckley, Driscoll, Fisher, Dombroski and  
21 Allegro, soon to be part of a non-Satmar minority  
22 living in desparit islands which are part of yet  
23 detached from the unincorporated Town of Monroe.

24 Why are non-Satmar residents not part of  
25 the original petition and the map?

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2 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

3 MR. ALLEGRO: When taking all  
4 circumstances into consideration, the answer is  
5 quite clear. The annexation petition and map  
6 were deliberately designed to keep ethnic  
7 minorities and non-Satmars from exercising their  
8 rights to vote in a referendum, the final act of  
9 approval for annexation to New York State. This  
10 is an action that would impact their properties,  
11 qualities of lives and children's educations  
12 forever. The ethnic minorities and non-Satmars  
13 were deliberately gerrymandered out of the right  
14 to participate in local government.

15 MR. WELLS: The time is up.

16 MR. ALLEGRO: The orchestration --

17 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Mr. Allegro, your time  
18 is up.

19 MR. ALLEGRO: I would like to put on  
20 record Mr. Barshov had all the time he wanted.  
21 His --

22 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Mr. Allegro --

23 MR. ALLEGRO: -- should not be any more  
24 important than anybody else here. This hearing  
25 is a sham.

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2 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Your time is up. You  
3 can submit the balance in writing if you'd like.

4 MR. ALLEGRO: The hearing is a sham.

5 MR. WELLS: Next speaker is Mendel Wieder,  
6 followed by Cliff Ader.

7 MR. EGAN: I'm Michael Egan, over a  
8 thirty-year resident of the Town of Monroe. This  
9 confrontation is not about religion, and  
10 everybody here tonight who tried to make it that  
11 way should be ashamed of themselves. What it is  
12 about -- what it is about it a clash of  
13 aspirations. On the one hand the leadership and  
14 developers of the Village of Kiryas Joel want  
15 unlimited access to water, sewer and land to  
16 enable unlimited population growth. The <sup>DAEIS/</sup>  
17 expectation is that much of the cost will be <sup>Chapter</sup>  
18 borne by the taxpayers of the County and the <sup>3.2.11</sup>  
19 State, and the preservation of the environment  
20 has no place in the list of considerations.  
21 On the other hand, the rest of the Town of Monroe  
22 aspires to preserve the natural beauty and rural  
23 character of the land, the high-quality school  
24 district, single-family homes and a sustainable  
25 level of taxes. That's the clash of aspiration.

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2           As we all know, the takeover of the East  
3 Ramapo School District by the school districts  
4 board was done to reduce taxes by gutting the  
5 district's programs. Although this benefits the  
6 one group who sends it's kids to private school,  
7 it is undeniably not in the public interest for  
8 the rest of the town citizens that use the public  
9 schools.

10           Like the East Ramapo takeover, an  
11 annexation of land to Monroe will benefit just  
12 one group. It would enable them to achieve their  
13 aspiration of unlimited growth. However, again  
14 like East Ramapo, the result would be the gutting  
15 of the aspirations of the rest of the Town's  
16 citizens as they watch the woods cut down and  
17 paved over, their taxes rise to pay for the cost  
18 of the new population, their school district  
19 threatened by the thousands of voters who don't  
20 use the schools. Just as obviously as the East  
21 Ramapo takeover, it is not -- it is not in the  
22 public interest. The annexation of Town land  
23 from Monroe to Kiryas Joel is also not in the  
24 public interest.

25           Mr. Doles, your public statements of the

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2 last two weeks seem to indicate that you're  
3 wavering --

4 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

5 MR. EGAN: -- on your longstanding support  
6 of the 507 acre annexation. Do not think for one  
7 minute this will provide you cover to vote for  
8 and push through the 164 acre annexation instead.  
9 That would only serve KJ's aspirations and it  
10 will not serve the rest of the Town citizens.  
11 Obviously it is not in the public interest.  
12 You've said ultimately --

13 MR. WELLS: Time is up.

14 MR. EGAN: -- this is an issue of water --

15 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Time is up. Thank you,  
16 Mr. Egan.

17 MR. EGAN: -- and sewage.

18 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you very much.  
19 Thank you very much. Your time is up.

20 MR. EGAN: Don't forget that you and all  
21 of you will ultimately vote --

22 SUPERVISOR DOLES: We appreciate that.

23 MR. EGAN: -- and decide the annexation.

24 SUPERVISOR DOLES: The next speaker,  
25 please.

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2 MR. WELLS: Cliff Ader. Next speaker is  
3 Cliff Ader, followed by Michael Queenan.

4 MR. ADER: Thank you for the opportunity  
5 to speak in such a beautiful hall in the middle  
6 of the poorest community in the United States.

7 Please, let me speak. I have three  
8 minutes.

9 Rabbi Wagschal, I'm a grandson of men and  
10 women from Poland who also fled Hitler and the  
11 annihilation of six million Jews. I'm saddened  
12 that as a community we continue to revisit the  
13 same topic. This entire annexation plan is  
14 archaic. When did it become a possibility to  
15 annex land from a neighboring community? Imagine  
16 your neighbor extending their home on your land  
17 before they ran out of property. It's issues  
18 like this that continue to alienate this  
19 community. Abusive Medicaid and social services  
20 fuel this debate, but the notion of a major land  
21 grab has created a feeling of distrust and hatred  
22 of this community, and it's palpable. Shamefully  
23 it's my belief that KJ, with all it's political  
24 might, will be successful in their bid. They may  
25 be granted a partial annexation in an attempt to

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2 minimize the publicity and anger That would most  
3 certainly result if the entire request was  
4 initially granted. This partial victory will  
5 ensure future success. It will also make it  
6 appear that our elected officials fought and won.

7 The Village of KJ has already shown how  
8 they act in their own interest. The rest of us  
9 play by the rules. We conform to the laws of  
10 this county and this country. This community  
11 writes their own rules. When challenged we are  
12 anti-Semitic. This offends me as a member of  
13 this community and as a Jew. Rabbi Akiva, which  
14 is my rabbi from Monroe Temple of Judaism, likes  
15 to quote often, and I'm a proud member of that  
16 community. Rabbi Akiva has stated, and I quote,  
17 whatever you have to have done on to you, do not  
18 do to your neighbor, wherefore do not hurt him,  
19 do not speak ill of him, do not reveal his  
20 secrets to others, let his honor and his property  
21 be as dear to thee as thy own. Thank you.

22 SUPERVISOR DOLES: The next speaker,  
23 please.

24 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Michael  
25 Queenan, followed by Mike Anagnostakis.

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2 MR. QUEENAN: Michael Queenan. I'm the  
3 mayor of the Village of Woodbury.

4 There are many concerns. I will focus on  
5 three. I'm concerned about the financials in our  
6 community. The Village of Kiryas Joel was  
7 incorporated in 1976 for the sole purpose of  
8 circumventing zoning. Now in 2015 it is  
9 happening again by a petition for annexation.  
10 The General Municipal Law does not permit  
11 circumvention of zoning as a valid reason for  
12 annexation. In most municipalities it is the  
13 developer who shoulders the responsibility and  
14 cost of needed or required infrastructure.  
15 Kiryas Joel, the business model, is a developer's  
16 dream. The State and/or Federal Government  
17 provide the funding, a/k/a Joe taxpayer, and the  
18 developers and friends are cleaning up. This is  
19 a very lucrative business.

20 Let's look at the cost. The last  
21 expansion of the Harriman wastewater treatment  
22 plant was approximately 25 billion for an  
23 additional 2 million gallons per day. The next  
24 capacity increase, whether it be an expansion or  
25 a new plant somewhere else within the County,

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Chapter  
2.2, 2.3



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2 will cost in excess of 50 to 100 million dollars.  
3 The cost of this expansion will be the burden of  
4 the member communities of the Harriman wastewater  
5 treatment plant.

6 Let's look at the pipeline. That is  
7 funded by low interest loans from the State and  
8 doesn't have any approvals to connect to the New  
9 York City aqueduct, which I question if that was  
10 ever the real objective or just a smokescreen. I  
11 question the wisdom of spending millions of  
12 dollars without having approvals. Now that the  
13 pipeline is definitely a moving target, the size  
14 went from 18 to 24 inches and the projected cost  
15 to connect to the aqueduct went from 29 million  
16 to 48 million. I assume it will only be a mere 23  
17 million to the wells in Mountainville. Will  
18 Albany forgive this debt and place the burden  
19 once again on the taxpayers? The Village of  
20 Woodbury is still waiting for payment for the  
21 site inspector we provided to the project on  
22 County Route 44. We're looking at 75 million to  
23 100 million and beyond with no end in sight.  
24 That's a lot of money to spend on one community  
25 since all the other communities in Orange County

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2 combined won't see anything close to that.  
3 Whatever you see in Woodbury was paid for by our  
4 residents.

5 MR. WELLS: Twenty seconds, sir.

6 MR. QUEENAN: I'm concerned about the  
7 compliance of planning laws. The government of  
8 Kiryas Joel has a history of showing total lack  
9 of compliance with GML 239 review without  
10 consequence.

11 I believe Kiryas Joel should not be issued  
12 any permits or approvals because of this and  
13 their perpetual failure to observe our Local,  
14 State, County and Town laws.

15 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you, Mayor.

16 MR. QUEENAN: Thank you.

17 SUPERVISOR DOLES: The next speaker,  
18 please.

19 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Legislator  
20 Mike Anagnostakis. Sorry. After Legislature  
21 Michael Egan.

22 MR. ANAGNOSTAKIS: I'm Orange County  
23 Legislator Mike Anagnostakis.

24 Gentlemen, citizens, as I said about a  
25 year-and-a-half ago when I addressed the Town

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2 Board of Monroe, I told you that ultimately these  
3 two Boards would have the final decision on the  
4 annexation. If one Board disapproved the  
5 annexation, it would head up in the state Supreme  
6 Court where judges would make the decision.

7 Some people call this document the truth.  
8 Some call it a scam. I suspect the final version  
9 will be very similar to what we have here. What  
10 you will not find in this document is any mention  
11 of 8,550 units that in the Kiryas Joel official  
12 document sent up to Albany said could easily be  
13 built on the annexed land ,because that would  
14 necessitate zoning changes.

15 Gentleman Andrew Jackson once said about  
16 175 years ago we desire nothing but equal rights  
17 and equal laws for everybody. Whether you are on  
18 that standard or not, each of you are sworn to do  
19 exactly what Andrew Jackson was requesting. When  
20 you took office, like I, you rose your right hand  
21 and you did solemnly swear to uphold the laws and  
22 the constitution of this State to the best of  
23 your ability.

24 Let me talk a little about the laws and  
25 let me talk a little about an illegal annexation.

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2 The State Supreme Court of New York, on  
3 November 15, 1985 in the case of the Village of  
4 Skaneateles versus the Town of Skaneateles  
5 disallowed an annexation. To quote them, they  
6 said the town zoning ordinance was duly enacted  
7 and no question is raised as to it's validity.  
8 We have found no precedent approving the use of  
9 annexation as a device by which the owner of land  
10 in one municipality may escape the effect of that  
11 municipality's local zoning by having the land  
12 transferred to an adjoining municipality. That  
13 court -- *DGEIS Chapter 2.2, 2.3*

14 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Legislator, I'm sorry  
15 to interrupt. Thirty seconds.

16 MR. AGANOSTAKIS: -- reaffirmed the case  
17 in 1991 and then reaffirmed it again in 1999.

18 Gentlemen, in order to uphold your oath of  
19 office I submit to you that you must vote no on  
20 the annexation. If you should claim that you  
21 have insufficient knowledge of the law, I then  
22 submit to you that you should vote no and let the  
23 judges in the State Supreme Court that do know  
24 what the law is make the decision on annexation.  
25 We desire nothing but equal laws and equal rights

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2 for everyone.

3 May God always bless the United States of  
4 America.

5 SUPERVISOR DOLES: The next speaker,  
6 please.

7 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Noelle  
8 Wolfson. Noelle Wolfson, followed by Brendan  
9 Coyne

10 MS. WOLFSON: Good evening. Noelle  
11 Wolfson, Hocherman, Tortorella & Wekstein. We're  
12 counsel for the Town of Blooming Grove.

13 I'd like to focus my comments on the EIS's  
14 conclusion that annexation will not affect  
15 population growth. The Town will also be  
16 submitting more detailed comments.

17 I'd also like to request that the written  
18 comment period be extended to July 20th to allow  
19 time for the analysis of the County's studies.

20 Contrary to SEQRA's mandates, the EIS  
21 fails to analyze the long-term impacts of  
22 annexation on population, concentration,  
23 distribution and growth, and the analysis of  
24 short-term impacts lacks factual basis. The  
25 analysis has to be redone to enable the lead

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2 agency to meet it's obligation and take a hard  
3 look at the proposed annexation's impact on the  
4 patterns of population concentration and  
5 distribution. *DGEIS Chapter 2.2 + 2.5*

6 First, the EIS's projections about the  
7 number of housing units and residents to be  
8 accommodated in the annexation territory under or  
9 without the annexation scenario is unreasonable.  
10 It relies on hundreds of one and two-bedroom  
11 apartments to accommodate large families without  
12 explanation of how that's reasonable or feasible.  
13 The projections must be revised to face  
14 unreasonably supported assumptions. *DGEIS Chapter 2.2 + 3.2.10*

15 Second, in it's effort to support the  
16 conclusion that annexation will not affect  
17 population and growth, the EIS assumes that any  
18 portion of the population increase projected by  
19 2025 that cannot be accommodated within the  
20 territory --

21 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Ladies and gentlemen,  
22 please keep it down. I'm sorry to interrupt.

23 MS. WOLFSON: -- could be accomplished  
24 within the Village. That's 2,400 new housing  
25 units to support approximately 12,000 people on

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2 limited land.

3 Finally, the EIS does not study long-term  
4 population growth of annexation. The EIS only  
5 studies population through 2025. The study  
6 period is shorter than the twenty-year study  
7 period including in the 2009 AKRF study and does  
8 not account for long-term housing needs of 25  
9 percent of the Village's existing population.  
10 That's children under five years old. Any study  
11 period that is less than twenty years in duration  
12 fails to account for the future needs of the  
13 existing population and fails to provide the lead  
14 agency with the information that it needs to take  
15 a hard look at population impacts.

16 A result of the proposed annexation is  
17 likely to be rezoning of the annexation territory  
18 to at least double the current density of  
19 development. That fact combined with a lack of  
20 empirical evidence supporting the conclusion that  
21 projected population could be accommodated within  
22 the annexation territory and the Village leads to  
23 the inescapable conclusion that annexation will  
24 affect population growth and the patterns of  
25 population, density, concentration and growth in

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4

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2 the Village and it's surrounds.

3 These impacts --

DGEIS/FGEIS  
Chapter 2.0

4 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

5 MS. WOLFSON: -- must be identified and  
6 addressed in the EIS. Thank you.

7 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you, young lady.

8 MR. COYNE: Good evening. I'm Brendan  
9 Coyne, mayor of Cornwall-on-Hudson. Thanks so  
10 much for having this hearing tonight.

11 I've been authorized by my board to speak  
12 at this public hearing, and I'm happy to say that  
13 many fellow Cornwall-ites are here as well. I  
14 also spoke at the Department of Environmental  
15 Conservation's April 29, 2014 public hearing on  
16 KJ's application for a well in Mountainville near  
17 Route 32 on the Cornwall/Woodbury border. KJ's  
18 leaders have yet to respond to my comments, and  
19 to my knowledge they have not responded to  
20 anyone's comments made at that time. It seems to  
21 me that this process shouldn't be moving forward  
22 until all those comments have been addressed.

23 Once again, KJ's leaders continue to  
24 demonstrate their hutzpah in not playing by the  
25 same rules as the rest of us, and it's apathy



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2 towards Orange County neighbors.

3 Now in this Generic Draft Environmental  
4 Impact Statement KJ proposed it's desire to have  
5 a well -- Mountainville well serve as an interim  
6 primary source, not the back-up water supply as  
7 previously claimed, for it's connection to the  
8 New York City aqueduct. Allowing the  
9 Mountainville well to become a primary source of  
10 water is irresponsible and nothing short of a  
11 water grab. The Town of Cornwall and the Village  
12 of Cornwall-on-Hudson oppose this major change  
13 and have recorded it's opposition with the DEC  
14 and requested a hearing on that matter alone.

15 We are the provider of water for most of  
16 the residents in the town as well as the  
17 residents of the Cornwall-on-Hudson Village, and  
18 we have concerns on record at least since as far  
19 back as 2007 for any proposal by KJ that might  
20 impact our ability to provide water to the  
21 residents of the town and the village.

22 We are also concerned that the proposed  
23 well will impact the private wells of residents  
24 in Mountainville and the western part of  
25 Cornwall, now only more so.

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2 Further, we are concerned that this is but  
3 one step in a broader project and the phases have  
4 not been addressed which would constitute  
5 segmentation under the State Environmental  
6 Quality Review Act. Growth in Cornwall is  
7 inevitable. The Town of Cornwall will continue  
8 to grow in an orderly and sustainable manner.

9 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

10 MR. COYNE: Thank you. The town and  
11 village have long-term plans for providing  
12 municipal water over a significantly expanded  
13 area of the town. Maps prepared in 2002 show  
14 that we plan to expand our water service area,  
15 more than doubling the size of our current water  
16 district.

17 In closing I'd just like to say that we  
18 oppose the grabbing of our water by KJ.

19 SUPERVISOR DOLES: The next speaker,  
20 please.

21 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Abraham  
22 Flohr, followed by Israel Knobluch.

23 MR. FLOHR: Good evening, Mayor, Town  
24 Supervisor. It's an honor for me to stand up in  
25 in front of you and talk. I'm standing here for

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2 almost two hours. I think if this is going to go  
3 on again and again, we will eventually get along.  
4 I mean it's nice for all of you to come out over  
5 here and share what you think.

6 We're in a great country of the United  
7 States that really has the right to express what  
8 we feel. Other countries, when this happens they  
9 take it out in the street, but it doesn't happen  
10 over here, which is great for both sides. I  
11 really appreciate that.

12 There's a difference of opinion, and all  
13 of your opinions really matter. I appreciate  
14 that. But I came here myself, I'm one of the  
15 paramedics. I'm actually a paramedic supervisor  
16 of KJ EMS. I'm the director of quality  
17 improvement for one of the great agencies which  
18 is called Hamaspik of Orange County. Hamaspik is  
19 an agency that's providing many, many services,  
20 not only to the individuals with developmental  
21 disability, it's an approved State provider for  
22 the entire Hudson Valley region. We do a lot of  
23 things. One of them environmental modification  
24 of homes for the individuals of need. As an  
25 approved access to home provider, which is

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2 anyone, any age with any disability, Hamaspik is  
3 a nursing home transition provider, a TBI, which  
4 is trauma brain injury provider. If someone was  
5 ever involved in an accident, doing modifications  
6 to the home, accommodations to meet their needs.  
7 Hamaspik provides activity, alongside of the  
8 senior dining program, for anyone over the age of  
9 sixty. To anyone. We're contracted with the  
10 County. All these services are provided  
11 throughout the entire County and beyond.  
12 Hamaspik already did many, many projects in  
13 Middletown, Newburgh, Warwick, Blooming  
14 Grove, --- -

15 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

16 MR. FLOHR: -- et cetera. While doing  
17 such home modifications we often may pick up  
18 additional needs for those individuals who find  
19 homes having lack of septic, or drinking water,  
20 and they have no relatives in the proximity to  
21 care for them. When they sometimes see an urgent  
22 need for individuals getting help, walking to the  
23 grocery for basic food --

24 MR. WELLS: Sir, your time is up.

25 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you very much.

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2 MR. WELLS: Israel Knobluch, followed by  
3 Russ Kassoff, followed by Andrew Buck.

4 MR. KNOBLUCH: Good evening. My name is  
5 Israel Knobluch, I'm the administrator of Kiryas  
6 Joel volunteer emergency medical services.  
7 Kiryas Joel EMS has been providing high quality  
8 care with an exceptionally quick response time to  
9 the Kiryas Joel community and when we're called  
10 upon to our surrounding neighbors for close to  
11 forty years. In the past year KJ EMS responded  
12 to approximately 6,000 emergencies. In 2014 we  
13 were recognized and awarded for agency of the  
14 year. We have been providing mutual aid  
15 assistance to all of our neighbors, and we were  
16 available when we were called upon for assistance  
17 standbys, fire standbys, community affairs and  
18 all local drills. We have the resources, the  
19 personnel, ambulances, state-of-the-art equipment  
20 and the continued support of our Village  
21 governmental officials.

22 Should the annexation go through, I'm  
23 confident that we could continue to provide the  
24 same high quality of care within the same timely  
25 response that our community and residents have

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2 become accustomed to. I therefore implore you to  
3 vote yes on the annexation so those residents can  
4 receive the same services and other exceptionally  
5 outstanding services that are available for the  
6 residents of Kiryas Joel.

7 Thank you.

8 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Russ  
9 Kassoff, followed by Andrew Buck.

10 MR. KASSOFF: Good evening. I'm Russ  
11 Kassoff, Town of Monroe. We are being hurt. We  
12 are all being hurt, the people of Monroe, Orange  
13 County and even many in KJ.

14 This part of the Hudson Valley is mostly  
15 single-family rural residential. We are not New  
16 York or any big city. This area simply does not  
17 have the natural resources to support many more  
18 people than it already has.

19 With KJ's plans to expand and the growing  
20 density of the population, we face the danger of  
21 economic and environmental collapse of our  
22 established way of life.

23 These proposed annexations have already  
24 produced a severely negative impact on the  
25 property values and selling prices in the entire

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2 area, thus hurting all residents outside of the  
3 Hasidic community.

4 At the same time, inside KJ there are  
5 people who are not happy with their leadership  
6 and the limitations imposed on them. They too --

7 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Excuse me, Mr. Kassoff.  
8 Excuse me. I'm sorry.

9 Would you please keep it down in the back  
10 or please take it outside. Mr. Kassoff is  
11 speaking. Please give him the same courtesy you  
12 would expect if you were speaking.

13 I'm sorry. Continue.

14 MR. KASSOFF: Thank you.

15 At the same time, inside KJ there are  
16 people who are not happy with their leadership  
17 and the limitations imposed on them. They too  
18 moved up here to live in the country setting.  
19 Instead they found themselves in crowded  
20 apartment buildings, some down wind of the stench  
21 of the slaughter house. I doubt they have the  
22 right to speak out in order to improve their  
23 unfavorable conditions.

24 We also know that KJ leadership annually  
25 receives our tax money from New York State

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2 specifically for low-income housing. This money  
3 has not reached the eligible people of KJ in  
4 twelve years. Where is this money?

5 Taxes. Our property taxes consist of  
6 three categories, town, county and school. This  
7 year 81 percent of the county property taxes will  
8 go to mandated Medicaid and social services.  
9 Without a breakdown, it is over 93 million  
10 dollars. With rapid population growth our county  
11 tax can only increase. *Response 3.2.11-32*

12 I also want to remind Monroe Town Board  
13 and the KJ Village Board that each time a  
14 property is removed from the tax rolls, be it a  
15 government building, a school, a place of  
16 worship, and is not replaced by a taxable parcel,  
17 the town tax goes up and is paid by the rest of  
18 us. This also hurts all of us, including the  
19 taxpaying residents of KJ.

20 Finally, people of Orange County are fast  
21 awakening to the destructive plans of the KJ  
22 leadership. We here are an all accepting  
23 community, always ready for productive  
24 discussions with good neighbors.

25 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.



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2 MR. KASSOFF: Instead, KJ leadership  
3 floods venomous propoganda within the KJ  
4 community against us, your non-Hasidic neighbors.  
5 KJ leadership is quick to sue anybody when it  
6 doesn't get it's way. On our side we would  
7 prefer to have more personal contact, to sit at a  
8 friendly table for a dialogue and find mutually  
9 acceptable solutions to our rising problems.

10 One of the basic rights guaranteed to us  
11 by the Declaration of Independence is the pursuit  
12 of happiness. I'll tell you bluntly this does  
13 not make us happy.

14 MR. WELLS: Time is up.

15 MR. KASSOFF: I urge you to vote note to  
16 these annexation proposals. Thank you.

17 MR. WELLS: Andrew Buck, followed by  
18 Suzanne Gowen.

19 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Is Mr. Buck here?  
20 We'll wait a couple moments.

21 MR. WELLS: Andrew Buck.

22 (No response.)

23 MR. WELLS: Susan Gowen.

24 SUPERVISOR DOLES: We'll wait for the next  
25 speaker then.

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2 MR. WELLS: Suzanne Gowen.

3 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Young lady, again just  
4 for the record, the mayor has left. If you would  
5 like, the record will reflect that as well as you  
6 can submit that in writing, but we will continue.

7 MS. GOWEN: Okay. Good evening. My name  
8 is Suzanne Gowen. I live in Orange County in a  
9 town called Monroe. A lot of people here tonight  
10 live in Monroe but they also live in the Village  
11 of Kiryas Joel, and the Village of Harriman, and  
12 the Village of Monroe which is all under the  
13 auspices of the Town of Monroe. We are all one  
14 community.

15 I have come here tonight to be on record  
16 as opposing annexation of land from the Town of  
17 Monroe into the Village of Kiryas Joel.

18 I was born and raised in Brooklyn, New  
19 York, and as a child I lived the city life but  
20 was also exposed to country life. The country  
21 was where my family would go on weekends and for  
22 vacations. It was how we escaped the heat of the  
23 city, the noise of the city, the dirt of the  
24 city, the crowds and the traffic. You always  
25 knew when you left the city. Visually the

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2 buildings were replaced by trees, sidewalks and  
3 parking lots were replaced by green pastures. It  
4 was always so exciting to spot a rabbit, to see a  
5 deer, see cows, birds, flowers and swim in a  
6 lake. It was great, it was different, and it  
7 felt peaceful. Those memories and those feelings  
8 obviously meant something to me, then and now.

9 I have been coming to Monroe for thirty  
10 years --

11 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Young lady, I'm sorry.  
12 I'm going to interrupt you.

13 For the folks in the back, I will ask you  
14 one more time to clear the back. Now we're going  
15 to clear the back. Excuse me. We're going to  
16 take care of this right now. For those in the  
17 back, either please sit down or I'm going to ask  
18 you now to please leave the area. We have a  
19 speaker here. We're going to listen to her.  
20 We're not going to listen to you. If you fail to  
21 understand that right now, we will escort you out  
22 of the building. Either have a seat or please  
23 exit and carry your discussion outside.

24 My apology. Please continue.

25 MS. GOWEN: I oppose this annexation. I

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2 do not want existing land in Monroe to be used to  
3 advance the extension -- extinction of our rural  
4 environment for which many of us are fighting so  
5 hard to keep. I believe these annexations to be  
6 an abuse of powers. A healthy community is a  
7 balanced community. This issue has caused  
8 political and personal conflict, frustration,  
9 anger and feelings of unbrotherly love. These  
10 are not the attributes of a healthy community.  
11 Therefore I do not want to be on record as one  
12 who knowingly and willingly sanctioned any action  
13 that I consider to be unfair, unjust or that  
14 would bring distress or despair to our community.  
15 Thank you.

16 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you very much.

17 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Eric Adam,  
18 followed by John Furst. Eric Adam.

19 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Please let the record  
20 show that Senator Eric Adam from New York City is  
21 here to speak. I apologize. My apology. I knew  
22 Senator Adam when he was the senator. Now  
23 borough president.

24 MR. ADAM: Thank you, Town of Monroe and  
25 the people of Kiryas Joel. I'm not here to speak

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2 on any specific action. I'm here to give you my  
3 perspective as the borough president of Brooklyn.  
4 I spent twenty-two years of my life wearing a  
5 bulletproof vest, protecting the families and  
6 children of the State as the New York City police  
7 department. I'm well aware of the importance of  
8 having communities thrive and grow. It's part of  
9 the American way. It's part of the American  
10 energy.

11 When I look at the representative that I  
12 am in borough of Brooklyn that covers both  
13 Queensbury and Borough Park, the large Hasidic  
14 communities, there's one thing that does not  
15 concern me. When gunshots go off at night and  
16 bullets carve highways of death to our community,  
17 I can be assured of one thing. It's not a member  
18 of the Hasidic community. When you read the  
19 countless number of cases of crimes, drugs, when  
20 you read the violence and assaults, when you read  
21 people who attempt to create havoc and terror in  
22 our communities, there's only one thing I can be  
23 sure of. It is not a member of the Hasidic  
24 community.

25 When you talk about children, focus and

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2 paying attention, dedicated and committed. When  
3 you talk about young people growing up to  
4 continue the legacy of their family members and  
5 provide a way, an opportunity for the future,  
6 there's only one thing I'm sure of. It's not the  
7 Hasidic community that's not doing that, it's the  
8 Hasidic community that is doing that. I'm happy,  
9 I'm happy to have them in the borough of  
10 Brooklyn. I'm happy to have represented them  
11 when I was in the State Senate. I'm happy to  
12 represent them as the borough president. And you  
13 should be happy to have them as members of your  
14 community here in Kiryas Joel in the Town of  
15 Monroe.

16 Let me conclude with this: There's  
17 nothing more American than having the right to  
18 expand. We did not stay in Florida or sixteen  
19 colonies. We expanded throughout the entire  
20 continent of America. We went from one shore to  
21 another. It is anti-American to believe that  
22 people do not have the right and the ability to  
23 expand and grow. If people want to have children  
24 and want to expand and allow themselves the  
25 opportunity to grow, that is America. That's the

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2 American way. I'm proud to be part of America.

3 So the decisions you make -- I'm not going  
4 to come in Monroe county just like I don't want  
5 you to come to Monroe Avenue in Brooklyn and  
6 tell me what to do, but I will give you a piece  
7 of advice. You have a great community in the  
8 Hasidic community. Let them grow and expand.  
9 Thank you very much.

10 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you very much,  
11 borough president.

12 May we have the next speaker, please.

13 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Tamie  
14 Hollins.

15 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Ms. Hollins, give it a  
16 moment if you would. There are a number of  
17 people leaving the room at this point. Let's  
18 give them time to leave.

19 Thank you, everyone. Please continue.

20 MS. HOLLINS: In the end anti-black,  
21 anti-Jew and all forms of discrimination are  
22 equivalent to the same thing, anti-humanism.  
23 Shirley Chism.

24 Good evening. My name is Tamie Hollins  
25 and I am from Newburgh, New York. I am here out

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2 of the concern for the rights of people here in  
3 KJ, just like I've been for more than half my  
4 life in the City of Newburgh where we experience  
5 structural and systemic racism every day. The  
6 anti-annexation forces are painting these good  
7 people as criminals because many KJ residents are  
8 poor. If you allow discrimination against people  
9 on the basis of their income you will next allow  
10 the eviction of poor people from the County all  
11 together. Monroe, this is a slippery slope. And  
12 for the sake of all humanity and in the name of  
13 God, I beg you not to go there.

14 On election day of 2013 I watched how the  
15 folks of KJ were intimidated and were prevented  
16 from exercising their voting rights. I was  
17 appalled and I called the Justice Department.

18 So I am here tonight in support of a  
19 community that is being singled out for being  
20 different, just like residents in my City of  
21 Newburgh also. Folks, I am different too. And I  
22 stand in solidarity with KJ.

23 In parting I just want to say if you can't  
24 fly, then run. If you can't run, then walk. If  
25 you can't walk, then crawl. But whatever you do



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2 KJ, you have to keep moving forward. Thank you.  
3 Martin Luther King.

4 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you very much.  
5 The next speaker, please.

6 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is John  
7 Furst, followed by Sandra Dunlap, followed by  
8 Patricia O'Dwyer.

9 MR. FURST: Good evening, Members of the  
10 Board. My name is John Furst, I'm an attorney --

11 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Mr. Furst, one moment  
12 again. Just give a couple moments for everyone  
13 to settle down. Those who want to leave, let  
14 them leave. We'll give you those three minutes  
15 that are important to you and the rest of us.

16 MR. FURST: I won't be that long.

17 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you, sir.

18 MR. FURST: Again my name is John Furst,  
19 I'm an attorney at Catania, Mahon, Milligram &  
20 Rider. We represent the Town of Woodbury. We're  
21 going to submit some comments via a letter dated  
22 today with some exhibits in connection with the  
23 petitions themselves pursuant to General  
24 Municipal Law Article 17.

25 In short, the letter highlights some

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2 discrepancies and some inaccuracies in the  
3 petitions, and we ask that the Boards address  
4 these issues before issuing either one of their  
5 final determinations. Thank you.

6 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Sandra  
7 Dunlap. Sandra Dunlap, followed by Patricia  
8 O'Dwyer. Sandra Dunlap, Patricia O'Dwyer. Are  
9 either of them here?

10 MS. O'DWYER: Good evening. I'm Patricia  
11 O'Dwyer from Chester, New York. I'm an a  
12 descendent of the people who have been oppressed.  
13 It absolutely is heartbreaking to have to hear  
14 someone come to this microphone and say in almost  
15 and apologetic way that they're Jewish. Forgive  
16 me, I'm Jewish. Forgive me, I'm against what  
17 you're proposing. It shouldn't be. It should  
18 never be.

19 A gentleman spoke earlier to the points  
20 that I was going to raise about the planning for  
21 water and sewer, so I will not go into any great  
22 detail. Having read that portion of the DGEIS, I  
23 find a great deal of conflict. The most  
24 concerning part is that there is no movement,  
25 there is no action being taken in order to get a

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2 permit to tap into the Catskill Aqueduct from the  
3 City of New York. I would hope that until such  
4 time as there is a resolution on that issue, that  
5 the County -- the county executive spoke this  
6 evening and said that the pipeline should -- that  
7 the annexation should not go through. I would  
8 hope that he would also follow up with the County  
9 considering not issuing any further construction  
10 permits for the pipeline until such time as all  
11 issues have been settled. I think it's in the  
12 interest of both sides to have all the questions  
13 addressed, especially the people who may or may  
14 not be affected by the backup wells, which, if  
15 you look at California, it could happen here. In  
16 a drought and the number of people that would  
17 have to be serviced by this annexation, it's very  
18 concerning. Very concerning.

19 So I hope that all these questions are  
20 raised, but in particular that no further permits  
21 be issued by the County for the construction of  
22 the pipeline until there's further clarification  
23 on whether or not the city will entertain an  
24 application and issue a permit to tap into the  
25 Catskill Aqueduct.

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2 Thank you for your time.

3 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you very much.

4 Mr. Wells.

5 MR. WELLS: We're waiting for the next  
6 list. Myra Kremnitz, followed by James Purcell.

7 SUPERVISOR DOLES: I believe it's Myra  
8 Kemnitz. Legislator Kemnitz, is she here?

9 MS. KEMNITZ: Yes, I am. Good evening,  
10 gentlemen. My name is Myra Kemnitz, I'm a  
11 resident of Monroe. I'm also a county  
12 legislator.

13 High among the issues that have not been  
14 addressed directly is the Kiryas Joel  
15 administration environmental concerns, and along  
16 with that the burden that that puts on all the  
17 neighboring communities around it.

18 The KJ Village administration regards the  
19 rest of Orange County as a third-world entity  
20 from which raw materials are extracted and into  
21 which waste is dumped. Illustrating this is the  
22 Kiryas Joel poultry processing plant which the  
23 Orange County Water Authority report, with it's  
24 own data and augmented with data from an outside  
25 agency, documents the saline coming out of the

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2 water from the plant as being twenty times higher  
3 than normal, and that the plant uses 14 tons of  
4 salt daily, 4 tons of which wash onto -- into our  
5 water every day. A total of 9 gallons of water  
6 per bird for soaking and rinsing a bird three  
7 times. Using the plant's advertised figure of  
8 40,000 birds per day, that equals 360,000 gallons  
9 per day, not counting clean-up water used by the  
10 facility, all running into a tributary of the  
11 Ramapo River and through Monroe. The Town of  
12 Monroe, Village of Monroe and Village of Harriman  
13 received this report and I was copied on it.  
14 Mayor Weider immediately filed an Article 78 on  
15 behalf of his residents in Harriman. The salt  
16 water continues it's path to the machinery at the  
17 Orange County sewer district number one eroding  
18 it and then flows into the Ramapo River as  
19 drinking water for the people in New Jersey.  
20 This will not stop with annexation, and more  
21 people and more chickens. *See comment from*  
*Mr. Searuzlone, Pg. 152 of*  
22 Exacerbating a problem with the outflow at *transcript*  
23 the chicken plant is that Kiryas Joel and the  
24 surrounding community already lack the ability to  
25 respond to any emergency of a heavy thunder storm

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2 where the water runoff overwhelms the sewage  
3 processing capacity and results in raw sewage  
4 backup.

5 The EIS of the annexation must address the  
6 New York State study on the impact of global  
7 warming, increasing snowstorms and rainstorm  
8 severity, and amounts of water runoff causing  
9 problems for our current sewage storage disposal  
10 methodologies.

11 The difference of the KJ administration  
12 for environment concerns is also clear in what  
13 they do not do. Kiryas Joel is alone among the  
14 municipal entities in Orange County in not  
15 recycling, thus putting an enormous unnecessary  
16 burden on County landfills, and sooner or later  
17 driving up the cost of operation of landfills for  
18 the rest of us in the County.

19 MR. WELLS: Ma'am, your time is up.

20 MS. KEMNITZ: I will submit what I haven't  
21 finished. Thank you.

22 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is James  
23 Purcell, followed by Joel Peflin.

24 MR. PURCELL: Good evening, everyone. I'd  
25 like to thank the Board in front of me for giving

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2 me the opportunity to speak on behalf of the  
3 Village of Monroe residents here in our wonderful  
4 community of Monroe.

5 First I'd like to start to say that my  
6 name is James Purcell, I'm the mayor of the  
7 Village of Monroe. Stage Road is our address.  
8 My name is Jim Purcell. I'm the mayor of the  
9 Village of Monroe, a SEQRA interested agency.  
10 Because of the proximity of the area to be  
11 annexed and the Village of Monroe, we have a keen  
12 interest in the environmental review of the  
13 annexation.

14 The Village of Monroe has no present  
15 position on the ultimate question of whether the  
16 annexation should be approved, however it is  
17 impossible even to make a reasonable  
18 determination in that regard because the Draft  
19 Generic Environmental Impact Statement does not  
20 adequately analyze the environmental impacts of  
21 the annexation. Indeed the substance of the  
22 DGEIS is so lacking and so devoid of true  
23 substantive analysis that it does not satisfy the  
24 SEQRA standard necessary to begin the public's  
25 review. The DGIS needs to be redone, it needs to

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2 be reanalyzed and various environmental issues  
3 identified in the DGIS scope in a realistic and  
4 meaningful manner. The fundamental problem with  
5 the DGIS is that it either avoids or assumes away  
6 almost all of the environmental impacts that will  
7 result from the possible annexation. It is  
8 disingenuous to avoid studying real and vital  
9 impacts of the annexation, including the likely  
10 high density of rezoning of the annexed area by  
11 simple statements that the impacts will be the  
12 same with or without annexation. It is improper  
13 to avoid studying likely transportation, noise,  
14 air quality, school and other impacts by  
15 assumptions specifically stated in the DGIS. It  
16 is illegal to enforce that the annexed area will  
17 be occupied by Hasidic families where children  
18 will be schooled in private religious schools,  
19 where no motor vehicles will be used on the  
20 Sabbath or religious holidays and where women  
21 will not drive cars. SEQRA review can not easily  
22 be avoided and people's freedom of ideas and  
23 choices can not be easily controlled.

24 I'm going to be submitting my comments in  
25 a more detailed request of the Village of Kiryas



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2 Joel as lead agency and address these meaningful  
3 manner of various environmental impacts that will  
4 result in the proposed annexation. The people of  
5 the Village of Monroe, the community of Monroe  
6 and all others deserve it. Thank you for your  
7 time.

8 SUPERVISOR DOLES: The next speaker,  
9 please.

10 MR. WELLS: Joel Peflin, followed by Susan  
11 Shapiro, followed by Randy Clark.

12 MR. PEFLIN: Good evening. My name is  
13 Joel Peflin, I'm the school superintendent at the  
14 Kiryas Joel School District. We are representing  
15 the interested agency. I am pleased that I was  
16 able to assist in the gathering of some of the  
17 information used by Tim Miller Associates in the  
18 preparation of the DGEIS. My thanks go to Mr.  
19 Miller and his team for a very thorough,  
20 organized and detailed presentation.

21 I'll limit my comments to those issues  
22 presented in the DGIS relating to education. As  
23 a threshold issue it's been clearly documented  
24 that the municipal annexation has no impact on  
25 school district borders. Both the 507 and the

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2 164 acre annexation petitions are for land  
3 located in the Monroe-Woodbury School District.  
4 A separate action by the boards of education of  
5 both the Kiryas Joel School District and  
6 Monroe-Woodbury must be voted on in order to  
7 alter school district boundaries.

8 The DGIS presents four possible scenarios  
9 relating to school district impact from  
10 annexation, annexation or not, and with and  
11 without a school district boundary change. The  
12 DGIS clearly outlines both the fiscal and program  
13 implications of each scenario.

14 The elephant in the room often mentioned  
15 in the media and in blogs is the East Ramapo  
16 Central School District in Rockland County. For  
17 the last several years East Ramapo has been under  
18 the control of a Hasidic dominated board of  
19 education, and due to fiscal issues they have had  
20 to slash programs in their public schools and  
21 layed off numerous public school staff.

22 Unlike East Ramapo, we have a different  
23 dynamic. Since 1989 the leadership of Monroe-  
24 Woodbury School District supported the creation  
25 of the Kiryas Joel School District because they

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2 understood that the creation of the KJSD was  
3 better for both districts. That cooperation and  
4 support continues throughout today.

5 The Hasidic population continues to grow  
6 in parts of Monroe and in Woodbury outside of  
7 Kiryas Joel in the Monroe-Woodbury School  
8 District. As the DGIS makes clear in the ten-  
9 year projection, even without annexation and  
10 using existing town zoning, the Hasidic  
11 population of Monroe-Woodbury School District is  
12 projected to grow by an additional 7,356 people  
13 and 1,431 households. It's clear to me that an  
14 additional 3,000 voters in Monroe-Woodbury with  
15 different needs and vision for their school  
16 district does have the potential to become an  
17 East Ramapo situation except for one major  
18 difference. Monroe-Woodbury has the Kiryas Joel  
19 school district. The Monroe-Woodbury School  
20 Board has the option to relieve the pressure of  
21 serving this community in a way not available in  
22 East Ramapo. With the simple majority vote of  
23 the Monroe-Woodbury Board of Education they could  
24 adopt a resolution to adjust their borders under  
25 Ed Law 1507. For the sake of peace the Kiryas

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2 Joel School District Board has already adopted  
3 this resolution on May 13, 2014. A copy of the  
4 resolution and the law is part of the appendix.

5 Let me just wrap this up by saying that  
6 I'm not here to advocate but I must inform the KJ  
7 Village Board and the Monroe-Woodbury Town Board  
8 that only by voting yes on the annexation  
9 applications will the Monroe-Woodbury School  
10 Board have the ability to vote to alter their  
11 boundaries. A no vote on annexation will  
12 ultimately force the Monroe-Woodbury School  
13 District into a scenario where changing  
14 demographics of 3,000 Hasidic voters in the next  
15 decade could create a crisis currently happening  
16 in East Ramapo. We want peace and we continue to  
17 flourish as two separate school districts. Thank  
18 you.

19 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you, Mr. Peflin.

20 MS. SHAPIRO: I'm Susan Shapiro, I'm here  
21 on behalf of my clients, Preserve Hudson Valley,  
22 the Allegros, the Doms and United Hudson Valley  
23 -- I mean United Monroe.

24 We have already started litigation against  
25 the DEC for naming Kiryas Joel as lead agency in

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2 this SEQRA review.

3 The proposed annexation isolates my  
4 clients. Their properties are in the northwest  
5 corner of the area. It would isolate their  
6 property the from the rest of the Town of Monroe,  
7 thereby reducing their services for everything  
8 from snow blowing to dog catching. It impairs  
9 their property values and impairs their freedom <sup>FGEIS</sup>  
10 to pursue life, liberty and the pursuit of <sup>Response</sup>  
11 happiness. <sup>3.1-8</sup>

12 We oppose the annexation of both the 507  
13 acres and the 164 acres because the DEIS -- the  
14 DGEIS is fully insufficient and fatally flawed.

15 Many people have already raised some of  
16 these issues. I'll just summarize. It does not  
17 consider impacts past 2025.

18 SUPERVISOR DOLES: I'm sorry, Ms. Shapiro.

19 Could you please keep it down in the back.  
20 Please

21 MS. SHAPIRO: It fails to consider County-  
22 wide regional water supply. It fails to consider  
23 the Village's serial noncompliance with the Clean  
24 Water Act. It fails to consider discrimination  
25 regarding the Fair Housing Act, which I will go

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2 into further, and it violates the State Municipal  
3 Annexation Laws in multiple ways.

4 The goal of the Fair Housing Act is to  
5 promote open, integrated residential housing  
6 patterns and to prevent the increase of  
7 segregation and ghettos of racial groups. This  
8 annexation is a clear violation of Federal Law  
9 and of the Fair Housing Act. It is disingenuous  
10 for the claim that this Satmar group has to live  
11 all together so they can practice their religion.  
12 I'm Jewish and you only need thirteen people to  
13 form a minion. You can live anywhere in this  
14 country. Other racial groups have moved and live  
15 elsewhere. You should look at the Amish for an  
16 example. FGEIS Chapter 2.3

17 The reality is that the Kiryas Joel  
18 Village is 99.-- 99 percent white. It is wholly  
19 discriminatory. There is no other community in  
20 the country that is so white.

21 I ask the question if homes are built in  
22 this annexation area, how will they be available  
23 to all religions, to all Americans? What  
24 guarantees are in place? African Americans,  
25 Asians, Indians, Native Americans, Christians,

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2 Muslims, and Atheists will have an opportunity to  
3 buy in the annexated area?

4 Right now the historic truth is that you  
5 constantly violate the Fair Housing Act --

6 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

7 MS. SHAPIRO: -- by not advertising in any  
8 way for anyone outside of this community to know  
9 what's going on.

10 The Boards have an obligation. I do  
11 question whether Kiryas Joel ever did sign an  
12 oath of office. I've asked for copies and I have  
13 not received them.

14 The Annexation Law makes it very clear  
15 that you can not annex the land to change the  
16 zoning. Right now the zoning in KJ is there is  
17 no maximum density, whereas in Monroe it's one  
18 house per one acre.

19 MR. WELLS: Time is up.

20 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Ms. Shapiro, thank you  
21 very much.

22 MR. WELLS: Thank you very much.

23 I'd like to take a break to give the  
24 Stenographer a break for five minutes.

25 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Ladies and gentlemen,

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we're going to take a five-minute break so the young lady can -- the transcriber can re-up her paper.

(A recess was taken.)

MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Edward Scarvalone, Randy Clark and then Iris Conques.

SUPERISOR DOLES: Sir, my apology for the delay. Obviously we needed to do whatever we had to do regarding the transcriptions. So thank you.

MR. SCARVALONE: Mr. Supervisor, Mr. Mayor, Board Members, my name is Edward Scarvalone and I'm here tonight on behalf of one of the largest private employers in Orange County, and that is the Kiryas Joel poultry processing plant. I'm a lawyer. I'm a partner in a firm called Willington, Scarvalone, and it's been my pleasure to be working with the owners and operators of KJ poultry for the last four-and-a-half years.

SUPERVISOR DOLES: Sir, please bring the microphone closer to you. Thank you.

MR. SCARVALONE: KJ Poultry is the largest kosher poultry plant in New York State. We are a



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privately-owned business located within the Village. We provide kosher chicken and kosher turkey to the New York Metro area and beyond.

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We're known for the highest quality kosher product on the market. We sell to leading supermarkets, both kosher and non-kosher.

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We also generate a tremendous amount of economic activity within the County. We employ over 250 employees, most of whom are from outside the Village. They are -- they are non-Satmars, non-Village residents. Our employees, in other words, are -- they go to the same churches that you go to, they go to the same movie theaters you go to, their kids attend your schools, their families with their wallets and pocketbooks are themselves important sources of economic activity within the County through their purchasing power, and so too is KJ poultry.

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When we hire for renovation projects or construction projects in the plant we hire County contractors, we hire plumbers, we hire carpenters, masons, excavators, you name it.

We have a record of accomplishment in the

1  
2 environmental arena which I want to touch upon.  
3 Our wastewater is treated thoroughly before it  
4 goes to the local sewage treatment plant. In the  
5 year 2011 we invested over \$1,000,000 in an  
6 upgraded state-of-the-art wastewater treatment  
7 plant designed by an expert consultant from  
8 Virginia. That pre-treatment upgrade has proven  
9 to be a full and thorough success resulting in  
10 full compliance with our permit limitation.

11 Also in 2011 we invested in a major  
12 stormwater control program to control our  
13 stormwater so that we collect it before it runs  
14 off into the KJ municipal stormwater system. And  
15 perhaps even most interested in the annexation  
16 discussion, we added technology to reduce our  
17 water consumption by 40 percent. That's 4-0  
18 percent. So we not only use 40 percent less  
19 water than we did before, but we discharge 40  
20 percent less wastewater to the sewage treatment  
21 plant than we did before. Our total investment  
22 in treatment technology over the last seven or  
23 eight years is somewhere north of \$2,000,000.

24 Now, thanks to the --

25 MR. WELLS: Sir, I'm sorry. I'm going to

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ask you to wrap up.

SUPERVISOR DOLES: The time is up, sir.

MR. SCARVALONE: We support the annexation. Thank you for your time. Have a good evening.

SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you.

MR. WELLS: Randy Clark.

MR. CLARK: Good evening, Supervisor, Town Board, Members of Kiryas Joel, Mayor. Thank you for having this meeting and thank you for allowing us to speak tonight. It's still tonight, not good morning yet.

Anyway, Supervisor, your Councilman a few hours ago stated we are really in for it tonight, and we being the County would like to close with that if this annexation goes through.

First let me state I'm Randy Clark, I'm supervisor of the Town of Cornwall and I'm authorized to speak on behalf of the town. The reason I'm here is to make sure that everyone knows that the Town of Cornwall is opposed to the annexation, both of them, and the DGEIS.

Why the annexation? Well, earlier tonight it was stated that it was an intelligent decision

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to annex. It is by far not an intelligent decision to annex either one of those parcels.

The taking of water of our municipality has been clearly stated by Mayor Brendan Coyne earlier, so I won't reiterate those issues. But we have a plan that we did in 2002. The town has growth prospects and it can't happen that you can take the water out of the Mountainville wells. A year ago you stated that it was going to be a secondary source. Recently, in the past few weeks, it has been declared a primary source.

Why is the DGEIS flawed? Well basically it's like what was stated earlier by an individual, a wolf in sheep's clothing or a fox running the hen house. I'm amazed that I just heard that the chicken slaughter house is a wonderful environmental institution. According to thirty minutes of research this afternoon, there are many, many violations that KJ has not been a good neighbor on. October 23, 2014, violations of that slaughter house, \$330,000. January 15, 2015, a wetlands violation of \$50,000. Multiple local violations on building codes. No permit to start work. No permits to

FGEIS Response  
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continue work once discovered and cited. Illegal walkway. That was October 31, 2008 the County asked that walkway to be taken down.

Numerous education violations. You spoke highly of the education. Well, in 2011 the comptroller's office fined you \$276,000 in fines. Most of the education --

MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

MR. CLARK: Thirty seconds. Thank you. Have been rewritten in Albany to accommodate KJ.

Lastly, given the public record of it's legal and regulatory violations, the scoping document must search out and explicitly list all known environmental legal and regulatory violations and justify why the Village of KJ could possibly be trusted to analyze potential negative impacts to natural resources or trusted to undertake any mitigation measures.

Thank you for allowing me to speak. I hope you all have a good evening.

SUPERISOR DOLES: Thank you, sir.

MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Iris Conques, followed by David Goldberger.

MS. CONQUES: My name is Iris Conques.

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2 Thank you for letting me speak. I'm very  
3 concerned about the wildlife that might be living  
4 in the wooded area that's being considered for  
5 the annexation. If this goes through and you  
6 start building the high-density housing, their  
7 habitat will be destroyed. Where will they go?  
8 They have a right to live. Our purpose in life  
9 is to care for this earth and all of the various  
10 life forms in it. Chapter 3.6 and 3.6.4

11 Please vote no for the annexation. Thank  
12 you.

13 SUPERVISOR DOLES: The next speaker.

14 MR. WELLS: Next is David Goldberger,  
15 followed by Bob O'Neil and Israel Ekstein.  
16 David Goldberger.

17 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Mr. Goldberger? The  
18 next person, please.

19 MR. WELLS: Bob O'Neil.

20 MR. O'NEILL: Bob O'Neill, I'm a member of  
21 the Town of Monroe Conservation Commission. I'm  
22 also a resident of the Village of Monroe.

23 A lot of the things I wanted to talk about  
24 tonight were already spoken about so I don't want  
25 to repeat. I guess I want to get back to that

1  
2 question several hours ago that Mr. Gelb posed  
3 about what would we propose, what do we suggest?  
4 Our suggestion is smart growth, but smart growth  
5 is not uncontrolled growth. It's not  
6 uncontrolled population growth. It's not  
7 sustainable. Just because it's your right, and  
8 I'm not denying it's your right to have as many  
9 children as you want, it doesn't mean it's the  
10 right thing to do. I mean I'm from an Irish  
11 Catholic heritage which historically is a  
12 tradition of Irish Catholics, tons of kids all  
13 the time. My mom's family had eight kids, my dad  
14 had -- I think they had five. I came from a  
15 family of five. My wife is from seven. We have  
16 two and there's a reason. We look at our  
17 resources, we look at what's around us and we  
18 decided -- it was our decision to have a smaller  
19 family. It's because I'm not looking to my  
20 government, my community to support me having ten  
21 kids. I'd love to have ten kids. I decided not  
22 to. That's a personal decision.

23 I don't care what community you're in, I  
24 don't care what religion you are, uncontrolled  
25 population growth within an area exhausts the

1  
2 resources and it's bad for all of us, all  
3 communities. You just -- it doesn't make sense  
4 to overgraze lands. That's why we had the dust  
5 bowl. It doesn't make any sense to have  
6 uncontrolled growth and use up all the resources.  
7 You do have the right to do it but you have --  
8 you should do it in a smart and responsible way.  
9 I must say I take offense to being called hateful  
10 for pointing that fact out. It's a fact, so face  
11 it.

12 And that's really -- that's really all I  
13 have to say tonight. Thank you. I'm opposed to  
14 the annexation.

15 MR. WELLS: Israel Ekstein, followed by  
16 Ezreal Spitzer.

17 MR. EKSTEIN: Good evening, Mayor and all  
18 officials. I'm a resident of the Town of Monroe  
19 for almost forty years and I went through all  
20 this happenings before also.

21 I just want to mention one episode that we  
22 had in Middletown. We tried to make a factory  
23 with 150 workers. We were also opposed for the  
24 same reason we are opposed now.

25 But the main reason I'm here is to let you



1  
2 know that I'm the person, I bought my twelve  
3 acres years ago and started having kids. I said  
4 okay, it's a one-acre lot that you can build a  
5 house so I'll have as many children as I'm going  
6 to have, I'm going to have room for them. Guess  
7 what? Very soon after that they just changed the  
8 zoning because we came in. They changed the  
9 zoning to three acres zoned for a one-family lot.  
10 Now keep in mind that the only reason why KJ is  
11 so overbuilt -- all my children live there, they  
12 have no choice where to go. The only reason why  
13 it's overbuilt is because you did too stringent  
14 to zoning laws just because of us.

15 And we came to Monroe, we had a lot of  
16 problems, windows breaking, pulling out our  
17 plumbing and so on and so forth. I never called  
18 and I don't want to call it now but I understand  
19 some people can not stand the way other people  
20 live.

21 Now, I'm just going to answer for the  
22 gentleman before who spoke. If not because your  
23 predecessors that had eight and five and ten  
24 children, you wouldn't be around. Much of you  
25 people wouldn't be around today.

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We experience a lot of problems in Seven Springs Road, just not the problems that one of the speakers spoke, I don't remember her name, that because it's a -- it's a route to walk there, they're afraid for people. I lived there for almost forty years. I never seen anybody bothered by our people or by anybody else. It's very nice for a trail. There's no problem with that. But how can you walk there --

MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

MR. EKSTEIN: All the roads are broken and the garbage are removed twice a week only if there's no holiday. In KJ you're removing the rubbish every day, and there's at least once a month I can see the broom going around. By us for six months they didn't even pick up the leaves and we had -- we have all kinds. Please, I know we care for the belugas, the bears. Please care for our children too and approve this annexation so we will have --

SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you, sir.

MR. EKSTEIN: Thank you. Good night.

MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Ezreal Spitzer, followed by William Friedman.

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MR. SPITZER: Good evening. My name is Ezreal Spitzer. I'm honored to serve the Kiryas Joel community as a fire volunteer for many years. Over the period of time the needs of our community have grown as our population has grown. Every other community in the State -- my children and those of many of my neighbors have not fled other opportunities in other states but rather have chosen to continue to live in this community. As a father of five children I am pleased to say I raised a family here, too.

The fire department that I help lead today is very different from the one of many years ago when we started with two trucks and 36 members. As of today at our location we support six pieces of apparatus, including a ladder truck with an extension arm reaching 135 feet which is in fact the only one in the County, a heavy rescue truck and 3 engines and pumpers and a brush truck. Last year we answered nearly to 1,600 calls for service with an average response time of less than two minutes. We have a certified force of 70 members prepared to battle structure fires and respond to accidents and emergencies throughout

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the community. We train repeatedly and our department is committed to the community it's serving.

I'm here this evening to let you know that we have responded to growth in the past, and as our community continues to grow, the very likely scenario that for many of us a few more grandchildren arrive, the Kiryas Joel fire department will be prepared to respond to the needs of it's community irrespective of whether boundaries of our Village expand or remain constant. Thank you.

MR. WELLS: The next speaker is William Friedman. William Friedman, followed by Judith Crelin Mayle.

SUPERVISOR DOLES: Mr. Friedman? Is there a Mr. Friedman?

The next speaker, please.

MR. WELLS: Judith Crelin Mayle.

MS. CRELIN MAYLE: Good evening. My name is Judith Crelin Mayle and I'm a partner with the firm of Thomas, Joe, Petrigro & Mayle and we provide legal counsel for the Monroe-Woodbury Central School District.

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I'd first like to say that the superintendent and the board would wish to be here this evening but unfortunately they had a board meeting this evening and they could not leave that for their own -- for this meeting.

Briefly, the board would like me to put on the record some of the comments that they will be submitting in writing in regards to both the DGEIS as well as the 507 acre and 164 acre annexation petitions.

As to the DGIS, we echo the concerns that you've heard this evening from the county executive and other articulate speakers as to the flaws of the DGIS. We believe that the DGIS, when it is reviewed, does not adequately address all the impacts and issues, nor does it rely on any substantive or articulable type of data that can support the conclusions.

Turning to the actual petitions themselves. It is our position that there are numerous irregularities in the petitions such that they do not comply with the requirements of Article 17 of the General Municipal Law. We believe that as an example there are

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2 irregularities when you compare one petition to  
3 another. When you review the actual signatures  
4 of people on the properties, while they may be  
5 very similar from one petition to the other as to  
6 the exact properties, curiously the name of the  
7 signator changes as you go from one petition to  
8 the next. That is only one example of the  
9 significant irregularities that as a matter of  
10 law creates those petitions as defective.

11           Additionally, we turn to the impact that  
12 this particular petition will have on the school  
13 district. While it's been noted that there are  
14 significant financial obligations of the district  
15 as to providing services to the children no  
16 matter where they come from as long as they live  
17 in the district, the facts that are presented  
18 that somehow the increased housing will offset  
19 those financial impacts are completely erroneous  
20 and disingenius. If anything, we are concerned  
21 that such an increase will have detrimental  
22 impacts on the budgets of the district to the  
23 point that it may even cause a diminution in  
24 State aid.

25           MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

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MS. CRELIN MAYLE: Specifically because there is an increase in the valuation of the property without an increase in the residential -- in the student population, it appears that the district may be wealthier than it actually is and will negatively impact that State aid.

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For all of those reasons and more we ask that you seriously consider these petitions, consider the flaws and reject the petitions as a matter of law. Thank you.

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SUPERVISOR DOLES: The next speaker, please.

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MR. WELLS: The next speaker, Legislator Aron Wieder, followed by Judy Berger, followed by Sam Kaufman.

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SUPERVISOR DOLES: Legislator Wieder, thank you very much.

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MR. WIEDER: Good evening, Members of the Board . Good evening, Mr. Supervisor, Councilmen, Mr. Mayor, Village Trustees. My name is Aron Wieder, I'm a Rockland County legislator.

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SUPERVISOR DOLES: Sir, please bring the microphone closer to you. Thank you.

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MR. WIEDER: I'm here tonight observing

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2 throughout the last couple of hours now, and  
3 unlike everyone else I go away very pleased. If  
4 you remove the tension, if you remove the  
5 passion, if you remove the rederick, this has  
6 been a very healthy debate. Throughout our  
7 American process in our history, for example the  
8 Constitution, it was a much more heated debate  
9 and the end result is we got the greatest  
10 document in our time. Throughout the 19th  
11 century, the 20th century our national debate,  
12 there were many, many, many issues debated, much  
13 more tense than tonight. And in the end the  
14 result, the outcome was where we are still the  
15 greatest country in the history of mankind.

16 Throughout the night we've heard both  
17 sides of the issue. People articulated their  
18 argument. If you go outside the room you will  
19 see people talking to each other, people from  
20 both sides of the issue. That's refreshing.  
21 That's healthy. That's what democracy is all  
22 about. That's why I go away tonight very pleased  
23 that this process has taken place. And at the  
24 end of the -- at the end of the day, at the end  
25 of the night, at the end of this process, all of



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you will make the right decision, the just  
decision.

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Martin Luther King once said we may have  
all come on different boats but we are all in the  
same ship now. People of KJ are going nowhere.  
The people of Orange County, United Monroe are  
going nowhere. They will learn to live side by  
side in peace and harmony. I have a dream.  
Thank you very much.

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SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you, sir. The  
next speaker.

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MR. WELLS: Judy Berger.

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MS. BERGER: Good evening. Good evening.  
My name is Judy Berger, I'm a lifetime resident  
in the Village of Kiryas Joel. Every now and  
then I'm called upon to volunteer at the Aishes  
Chayil Women's Services Center. I'm passionate  
about newborns and revel in the joy of caring for  
them. I therefore appreciate if the prospective  
of this postpartum convalescent facility were a  
part of annexation. Aishes Chayil is a 162- bed  
facility which provides a multitude of post-  
partum services for the new moms, their newborns  
and families. Aishes Chayil serves over 3,000

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2 mothers annually. Although my daily schedule is  
3 quiete full, with a full-time job and a house of  
4 three children, and I still cherish the time I'm  
5 privileged to spend in a joyous environment as  
6 such where new life is celebrated. When I look  
7 at the faces of those infants it brings back  
8 memories of my younger siblings at that age who  
9 are now fathers and mothers with children of  
10 their own. I envision them attending village  
11 schools, synagogues and patronizing village  
12 businesses. I wonder will the reswrath succeed  
13 in preventing them from remaining in the  
14 community with their parents and for some even  
15 their grandparents who were born and raised. I  
16 look into those eyes and I wonder who will decide  
17 the place of residency, and I realize that these  
18 children's most basic American right is being  
19 challenged. If their right to choose where to  
20 live is taken from them, what other rights will  
21 they try to take away next?

22 What I find most ironic is that well over  
23 100 employees of Aishes Chayil are from outside  
24 Kiryas Joel. So our neighbors are essentially  
25 saying pay us to take care of your newborns but

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once they grow up they'll just have to leave.

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Natural growth is a fact of life. To ignore it

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would be irresponsible. Thank you.

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MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Sam

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Kaufman, followed by Samuel Weinberger.

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SUPERVISOR DOLES: Mr. Kaufman, are you

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here?

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MR. WELLS: The speaker after that, Laura

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Rainoff.

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MR. KAUFMAN: Good evening. I live on

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Seven Springs Road, directly adjoining

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undeveloped woodland, and as such I'm pleased to

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take this opportunity to make my voice heard

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amongst all the hype and hoopla why I approve of

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the annexation.

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Number one, security. The issue of no

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lighting and no sidewalks and minimal presence of

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law enforcement as of forementioned, there is a

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serious security situation on our streets. In

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the twelve plus years that we have lived in the

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Town we have had axe thrown at our front door, we

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have had a beer bottle smashed in our kitchen

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window, we have had our doorbell rung in the dead

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of the night by a group of rowdy youths, and slurs have been directed by passing motorists at our children when walking to and from Sabbath services. The quickest response to date by the State Police was two hours and forty minutes. No kidding.

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Number two is a drainage issue. There are no catch basins on most of our streets and every major rainstorm causes street flooding.

Remaining large puddles harbor droves of mosquitoes. I have spoken to the highway department multiple times about this over the years. They once sent down a crew and all they were able to say was oh, water flows down and that's the lowest point. Mm'hm'.

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Regarding street lighting I must say for the record that Councilman, I believe his name was Jim Rogers came down at night especially to meet me many years ago and he agreed it's "dark as hell" but unfortunately the Town only installs street lights at street intersections.

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Another fine example of the street maintenance was when the roads were resurfaced last time, the loose gravel was never removed

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despite repeated requests by myself and my

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neighbors to Town officials. Don't ask me for

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the minutes or anything of that nature, I'm just

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a citizen. I spoke to the supervisor, I spoke to

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the assistants. Shortly thereafter fresh yellow

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lines were painted right on top of that gravel,

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which of course became invisible after a week or

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two.

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Then there's the issue of open space,

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which was actually the very reason we moved to

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Seven Springs in the first place. That open

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space for some reason attracts a lot of dumping.

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Two years ago my neighbors and I lobbied the Town

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for months until they finally sent a clean-up

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crew of four. That took the better part of a

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week to haul away several tons of refuse.

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I invite all the people present here

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tonight to take a drive down the undeveloped

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section of Seven Springs Road.

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MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

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MR. KAUFMAN: It again resembles a dump.

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I'm talking about that very section, the section

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of the Highlands Trail that somebody spoke about

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before which I love to walk on with my wife and

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2 kids. To my own personal observation it hosts  
3 about a maximum of twenty people a year. You can  
4 find every imaginable cast of human habitation,  
5 including TV sets and a kitchen sink. We  
6 appreciate the open space and nature affiliated  
7 woodpeckers, and humming birds, and bears just as  
8 much as everyone else does, but if the Town is  
9 unwilling or unable to maintain it in a safe and  
10 clean way --

11 MR. WELLS: Time is up.

12 MR. KAUFMAN: -- development may be a  
13 better alternative.

14 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you.

15 MR. KAUFMAN: God Bless us all and God  
16 Bless the United States.

17 MR. WEINBERGER: Good evening. My name is  
18 Samuel Weinberger. I would like to start with I  
19 do understand the good neighbors sitting on my  
20 right side. I do understand every word that they  
21 said. I have passion for them.

22 One thing, they're missing some  
23 information. I'll tell you a story. In '84 my  
24 father -- if you're talking about my father, he  
25 was involved, he was working for the city, he

1  
2 helped the administration and other elected  
3 officials. He was helping not only Hasidic Jews  
4 and not only blacks, also a full community. He  
5 also used to help -- help everybody, no  
6 difference of race or whatever. In 1948 he was  
7 in the streets of Manhattan, he had the business  
8 there. Got then former Governor Carey, in 1984  
9 found he was there, he shook the hands to  
10 Governor Carey, Carey shook -- Governor Carey  
11 shook the hands for him and Governor Carey was --  
12 and Governor Carey's wife also wanted to shake  
13 hands with my father, and of course my father, as  
14 somebody else speak previously, didn't understand  
15 the comment or the Village of KJ why the saying a  
16 whole list of things who may touch so and so.  
17 Governor Carey understood that his wife is not  
18 aware of what the Hasidic community is. He  
19 explained for his newly wed wife what's all about  
20 the Hasidic community and neighbors. When you  
21 understand our lifestyle, you look with your good  
22 hearts what it is, you'll understand us. When  
23 the dust will settle, and the dust will settle in  
24 twenty years from now when all of our neighbors  
25 will look back and see that it went through the

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annexation.

Let me tell you we -- for me personal, it shouldn't be annexation. In back of where I live there's undeveloped area that I personally enjoy. I could walk there with my wife and kids. It's an undeveloped area. If the annexation process will not go through I'll have all those land there for my sake.

MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds, sir.

MR. WEINBERGER: But it's not all about own sake. When you look back years from now and you see I helped those children. I personally have twelve children and I do remember when I -- when I started that my wife couldn't -- my wife had twelve kids, eight c-sections. She wasn't able to without the help of my mother-in-law. And my twelve kids needs my help. And when they're not in our area they can't have my help. My oldest --

MR. WELLS: Time is up, sir.

MR. WEINBERGER: -- son has five kids and they can't survive without my help. And my own five children --

MR. WELLS: Thank you, sir.



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MR. WEINBERGER: -- are paying rent. And I hope the annexation process will go through and we'll be able to have low income -- not low income, pay high value rent but not very much. Thank you very much.

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MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Laura Rainoff, followed by Susan Roth, Joseph Kaufman.

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MS. RAINOFF: My name is Laura Rainoff, I live in the Town of tuxedo. I address specifically the incompleteness --

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SUPERVISOR DOLES: I'm sorry. If you would please tone it down. Let the speaker have her time as everyone else has. I'm sorry.

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MS. RAINOFF: My name is Laura Rainoff, I live in the Town of Tuxedo. The DGEIS for the 507 and 164 acre petitions is a sham because it does not address the full buildout of housing that KJ has stated publicly that it intends for either proposed annexation. Response 3.2.10-1

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I have time only to address specifically the incompleteness of the DGEIS with respect to the impacts that either of the illegal annexation petitions will have on the Monroe-Woodbury Central School District, the very reason that my

1  
2 family moved to Tuxedo. We do not have to  
3 speculate as to what impact the annexations,  
4 either one of them, would have on our school  
5 district. The East Ramapo School District in  
6 Rockland County shows exactly what would be in  
7 store. This fact has nothing to do with the  
8 freedom of religion or anti-Semitism or animosity  
9 of folks who look, act or behave differently than  
10 me. It has nothing to do with any of that. It  
11 has to do with a population explosion, a huge  
12 population of folks that are not interested in  
13 supporting the public school system, except of  
14 course for the funding that specifically supports  
15 their private religious schools and  
16 transportation for their special needs students,  
17 which taxes I happily pay. Happily. FGEIS Chapter

18 When I was in high school in Rockland 2.3  
19 County, the East Ramapo School District was  
20 excellent, including advanced placement courses,  
21 drama, music, sports. Now, after the local  
22 Hasidic community has voted themselves onto the  
23 school board, public school students can not meet  
24 New York State graduation requirements within  
25 four years because insufficient classes are

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offered. There are no music, art, sports or

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advantaged placement courses. The formerly

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excellent East Ramapo School District has been

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eviscerated. School buildings have been closed

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and not used for education purposes.

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Where in the DGEIS is the analysis of the

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devastating impacts of development of the

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proposed annexations on the Monroe-Woodbury

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Central School District? It's not there. It is

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very interesting to me that in nine minutes my

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three -- the three for the lawyer, for the school

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district and the three for the representative of

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the KJ school district, in this nine minutes

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there are more facts and more analysis, brief and

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superficial as it is, than in your report. You

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folks, both of you, need to tell this

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organization to do a full factual analysis of the

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actual impacts on the school district, of the

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actual high-density housing impact that will

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happen with either of the annexations.

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MR. WELLS: Thank you. Your time is up.

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Susan Roth. The Next speaker is Susan Roth,

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Joseph Kaufman.

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MR. KAUFMAN: Ladies and gentlemen, my

1  
2 name is Joseph Kaufman. I was born and raised in  
3 Montreal Canada in neighborhoods inhabited by  
4 various ethnicities, and I enjoyed my life  
5 despite not living in a Jewish village. As the  
6 annexation debate heated up I realized that many  
7 KJ residents live under the myth that only within  
8 the KJ borders will they enjoy life. As a  
9 financial advisor I want to disprove this myth  
10 and prove it does not take a village for KJ  
11 residents to live their lifestyle. I'm convinced  
12 that KJ residents can enjoy their lifestyle  
13 uninhibited in Monroe and Woodbury. Awhile back  
14 I accepted a Yiddish language flyer from a United  
15 Monroe member in which they invited us to leave  
16 the KJ ghetto and buy homes in the greater Monroe  
17 area. I agreed. We can expand our community  
18 without having to go through the hassle of  
19 annexation.

20 Some say annexation is needed to bring  
21 down housing. But that's not true. Affordable  
22 homes are available in the neighboring towns, and  
23 United Monroe pledged to welcome us with open  
24 arms.

25 In recent years many KJ residents saw the

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light and bought homes in the surrounding towns.

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I'm actively working with 113 prospective buyers

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to help them find suitable homes in the greater

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Monroe area. There are many more waiting in the

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wings.

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I'm convinced that if annexation is not

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approved, the entire Town of Monroe, Woodbury,

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Blooming Grove would become more hospitable to

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the Hasidic community and affordable housing

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would be plentiful for our growing community. I

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believe it's for the greater good because

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thousands of families need homes, not annexation.

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Thank you.

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SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you, sir.

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MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Fran

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Perchick, followed by Yehuard Landau.

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MS. PERCHICK: Good evening. I'm Fran

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Perchick of Monroe. I see this annexation

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attempt as a simple matter really. In section

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3.1 of the DGEIS regarding land use, as cited in

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3.11, zoning, I quote, "The Village of Kiryas

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Joel provides it's own policies for land use that

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are not subject to oversight by the Town." This

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is the true goal of Kiryas Joel, to annex

1  
2 additional land so that it is not subject to  
3 outside oversight. This is a clear case of  
4 Kiryas Joel officials and landowners trying to  
5 circumvent zoning laws. It is an attempt to get  
6 around local environmental code. The 507 acres  
7 proposed for annexation to Kiryas Joel is simply  
8 about changing zoning with little regard for  
9 following local laws, to create housing that is  
10 not currently allowed in the current code.

11 There is acknowledgement throughout the  
12 DEIS that there will be development. This is not  
13 in dispute. Appropriate, law abiding,  
14 responsible development is not an issue. But  
15 Kiryas Joel will not develop within the law, will  
16 not develop with environmental sensitivity, will  
17 not develop with sustainability nor with a smart  
18 growth plan. The Village has an  
19 extensive track record of serious environmental  
20 violations. There is no reason to believe that  
21 if Kiryas Joel has sole oversight of new land,  
22 that they will follow environmental laws. In  
23 fact, there's clear evidence that KJ shows total  
24 disregard for environmental laws. Look at the  
25 noncompliance of the KJ sewage treatment plant.

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Look at the terrible violations of the chicken processing plant directly into a tributary of the Ramapo River.

I and my neighbors can personally cite examples of landowners from Kiryas Joel violating various environmental, stormwater, erosion, tree preservation and vegetation town code without regard to environmental impacts and without regard to their neighbors.

The DGEIS cites expected increases in sewage effluents. This was discussed earlier this evening. The Ramapo River can not remain healthy and receive additional sewage.

MR. WELLS: Thirty minutes -- thirty seconds.

MS. PERCHICK: We must protect the Ramapo River, the Ramapo watershed and the aquifer from pollutants that will impact the drinking water quality in this area as well as our neighbors' drinking water in Rockland and Bergen Counties.

I just want to address smart growth for a moment. Smart growth considers impacts to an entire region. It considers available resources. It considers everyone's needs and not just those

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of a particular community. Smart growth is sustainable. This annexation plan --

MR. WELLS: Time is up.

MS. PERCHICK: -- is not smart. I'm just going to read one more sentence. It's not sustainable and it is an attempt to forever change the rural residential nature of this region.

SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you.

MS. PERCHICK: I urge you --

SUPERVISOR DOLES: Let her finish.

Please.

MS. PERCHICK: I urge you to vote no on the annexation. Thank you.

SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you. The next speaker.

MR. WELLS: Yehuard Landau. Mr. or Ms. Landau. Kate Ahmadi.

SUPERVISOR DOLES: We're approaching midnight. I just want to thank everyone from the public. In case I do forget, I want everyone to know our gratitude, the Board Members and the Village as well, everyone here, for doing this. It's an act of faith and your beliefs. Hopefully



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at the end of this it will be a faith in each other's ability to be able to work together to find a good solution.

That being said, the next speaker is?

MR. WELLS: Kate Ahmadi.

MS. AHMADI: Kate Ahmadi, I'm a citizen of Blooming Grove. Can you hear me? I would like to thank you. I would like to speak about the environment and about Schunnemunk Mountain, but I can't figure out what parts of it are included so I'm going to speak about Gonzaga Park which is Schunnemunk Mountain. Gonzaga Park is a very, very small park. I believe it's only about 23 acres. And from what the newspapers say, 7 acres might be taken as part of the annexation. I would like to say that I'm opposed to that taking of almost one third of what is already a very, very small park. DGEIS Chapter 3.7 and F&EIS Chapter 3.7.5

The most important thing about it is that the small park has had a long history. It belonged to the Catholic church, then it belonged to the State of New York who set it up as a park, they cleaned it and took out some of the buildings which were very, very vandalized. So

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2 vandalized that the night when they took down the  
3 large building, the man who took down the  
4 building slept there because he said seven groups  
5 came in that night to further vandalize the large  
6 building in Gonzaga. So getting the park  
7 established in Gonzaga has a long history, too.  
8 The most important part of it is that when the  
9 State of New York passed it on to the County as a  
10 county park, which is what it is now, in 2001,  
11 the deed stated that the area had to be -- was  
12 stipulated to remain forever a park. So if this  
13 is to be annexed, that's a violation of the deed  
14 of the park and perhaps the park would revert to  
15 the State. I'm not sure but according to the  
16 deed that's what would happen. So I would like  
17 to be on record that that's important, that this  
18 is a violation of the deed, annexation of the  
19 very small park.

20 The last thing that's important about the  
21 park is that it's in the area between KJ and not  
22 KJ, if you want to say it that way. It has been  
23 an area where people can meet, where people can  
24 hike. People Hasidm and not Hasidm have been  
25 hiking there for years peacefully regardless of

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what clothes they wear or whatever concern.

MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

MS. AHMADI: I would like to think that it can stay that way and it will be a place where other kinds of activities will be continued, such as education about nature which also has been happening in New York, and games being played and other park activities have been happening with all kinds of people involved. It's my hope that that will continue and we won't lose that. Thank you. DGEIS Chapter 3.7 + 3.7.5  
FGEIS Response 3.7-3

MR. WELLS: Thank you. Yehuard Landau.

Noel Moloney. Noel Moloney. Jim Freiband. Terry Hughes. Joseph Landau .

MR. LANDAU: Good evening. My name is Joseph Landau, I live in Kiryas Joel for ten years. I currently serve as administrator of the congregation with over 3,000 members who reside in the Village of Kiryas Joel, and I would look to speak in support of the annexation.

Having the opportunity to serve the public, I very often come across people complaining that they can not support their religious and cultural needs due to high rent

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prices. In recent years the cost of renting or buying a home in the Village of Kiryas Joel has continued to rise very quickly due to a lack of available land on which to build new homes.

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People, including myself, rightfully complain purchasing a four-bedroom condo in our Village, nevermind a private home, is now beyond the reach of most of the middle income community. Supply and demand is the prime driver of these booming prices. We just do not have enough land to provide housing for our growing community unless we start building large urban apartment complexes far bigger than we already have, which no one wants.

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Now let me just digress for a minute and comment on our friends over at United Monroe and their repeated blasting of our community for having large families. Did you guys know that the American west was won by America farmers building not just huge farms but huge families? Strong, healthy and large families are what make America what it is. The only question here is not why we have large families, but why you don't. Attacking us for having large families

1  
2 sounds a little too much like the communitis in  
3 China where couples are only allowed to have one  
4 kid each. Children are a blessing. In our  
5 community most of us raise large families and  
6 they're raised in large families. I personally  
7 grew up in a family of seventeen. Yes, you heard  
8 that right. My wife comes from a family of  
9 twelve. And we are proud of it. A large family  
10 is the best place for a kid to grow up. A large  
11 family is a social laboratory where you learn how  
12 to get along with others from the youngest age,  
13 where you learn to share and not act spoiled,  
14 where you acquire sensitivity to others. It's  
15 also the best social guarantee that you won't  
16 turn to drugs, alcohol, crime or violence as none  
17 of my immediate family has.

18 Back to the annexation. Our community  
19 members, like everyone in this great country,  
20 deserve more.

21 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

22 MR. LANDAU: They deserve to own their own  
23 homes, they deserve to have their children live  
24 nearby in the same town where they grew up in and  
25 they deserve what they are asking for tonight,

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the approval of the annexation. Thank you.

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MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Matt Higgins, followed by Chaim Friedman.

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MR. HIGGINS: Good evening. It's still evening I hope. Matt Higgins, I'm from Woodbury.

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SUPERVISOR DOLES: Mr. Higgins, would you like to adjust the --

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MR. HIGGINS: Thank you.

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SUPERVISOR DOLES: If it's more comfortable for you.

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MR. HIGGINS: Thank you. I'm not trying to be judgmental here but I thought it was part of the Satmar religion to be good, pleasant neighbors. This is no way to be good neighbors. Annexing land from unwilling neighbors is not only being bad neighbors, it's anti-American.

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I moved to the area for the beauty of the area and fairly low taxes. Losing control of zoning is unneighborly, unjust, un-American and I oppose the annexation.

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I wanted to speak about the scoping. The draft scoping outline indicates Monroe KJ Consulting, LLC as petitioner applicant. If

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2 ownership is changed it should be clarified and  
3 corrected. Signatures should be validated by the  
4 County Board of Elections. We must have  
5 certification attached by the assessor by law as  
6 well.

7 I also wanted to ask why is Woodbury  
8 written as being annexed yet not being notified  
9 of any lands being listed this petition? How is  
10 that legit? Kiryas Joel's fictitious in claiming  
11 no condos, no affect on water, sewer, traffic or  
12 runoff.

13 And because I only have about a minute  
14 left to talk about three annexations, I'm going  
15 to try to hit a few points. Seventeen years ago  
16 I ate fish from the Ramapo River. It tasted like  
17 poop then. That's coo-coo or doo-doo. Before  
18 the Kiryas Joel sewer treatment plant. Today,  
19 forget it. The Ramapo is overcapacity for  
20 sewage. The Kiryas Joel sewer treatment plant  
21 flows into the stream and there's no more room  
22 for all of this sewage. Who is going to pay for  
23 the sewer treatment plant? How much is the sewer  
24 treatment plant going to cost? How much is it  
25 going to cost for this whole thing with all the

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Medicaid that's received by Kiryas Joel, which it used to be approximately 91 million. Last I heard it was 158 million for the cost of Medicaid to Kiryas Joel. This makes it expensive for all Orange County residents.

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MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

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MR. HIGGINS: This is a County issue.

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MR. WELLS: Thank you.

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MR. HIGGINS: Thank you.

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MR. WELLS: Chaim Friedman.

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SUPERVISOR DOLES: The next speaker.

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MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Chaim

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Friedman. Shmiel Stern.

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MR. STERN: Thank you for allowing me to

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speak. My name is Shmiel Stern. I have lived in

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Kiryas Joel now for over ten years and I would

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like to speak my mind regarding the annexation

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process.

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My parents live in Baywater, it's a

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neighborhood in Queens which is very similar to

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the surrounding neighborhoods here outside of KJ.

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Let me tell you, I would love to live in Bay

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wateror herein Woodbury. It's spacious there's

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room for all, but the fact it it is impractically



1  
2 impossible and here's why. As you can see I'm a  
3 Hasidic Jew. We have morning and evening prayers  
4 each and every day. By the way, someone just  
5 stood up on this podium and said I'm Jewish too  
6 and you only need thirteen people for a minion.  
7 She might be Jewish but she has no clue what  
8 practicing Judism is all about because there's no  
9 number thirteen. You can ask every Jew in the  
10 world. Nobody knows where thirteen came from.

11 The fact is if I were to live in Bay Water  
12 or if I would buy an existing home in the  
13 surrounding towns and villages here outside of  
14 KJ, it wouldn't be a problem during the regular  
15 weekdays when I can drive to the synogogue blocks  
16 away or attend a family event by driving five or  
17 ten minutes away. But on every Saturday, the  
18 Jewish Sabbath and all holidays when we're not  
19 permitted to operate cars we must walk long  
20 distances to the synagogue, and usually in Bay  
21 Water this is the case. It's impossible,  
22 especially for the kids. Living in those places  
23 where there's a lack of sidewalks and street  
24 lights and people live so apart of each other  
25 creates a safety hazard every weekend, and all

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Jewish holidays as we attend our shool and

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family. Therefore the best choice for us is

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living closely together the way we do here in KJ,

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and that's why we need to expand our Village so

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that my children can also have the same

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opportunity.

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Some folks would say why do I care about your

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religion. The answer is America stands for

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freedom of religion, not freedom from religion

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but rather freedom of religion, which means that

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everyone should be able to practice their own way

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of life with safety and comfort. Freedom of

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religion means that my children and I should be

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able to practice our religion without having to

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sacrifice our safety.

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Someone just came up like before the break

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and said by the way there are a lot of people in

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KJ who live near the poultry plant --

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MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

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MR. FRIEDMAN: -- and they're complaining,

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they're not happy. Listen, I live there. Please

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do not speak in my name. I live there and if I

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have to complain to someone, our Village leaders

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are always there to hear what we have to say.

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Therefore I ask you to please approve the annexation. Thanks again for your time.

MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Sarah Haisley. Sarah Haisley, followed by Mike Goldstein. Sarah Haisley or Mike Goldstein. After Mike is Ward Brower.

MR. GOLDSTEIN: Good evening, Mike Goldstein. Or good morning. Earlier this evening the attorney for the United Monroe was trying to get a quote in from the late supervisor of the Town of Monroe, William C. Rogers, which was made on December 10, 1976. I'm going to put it into the record. For the Satmars to believe that they're above or separate from the rules and regulations that Monroe has chosen to live by, or try to impose their morays upon the community of Monroe, or to hide behind the self-imposed shade of secrecy, or cry out religious persecution there is none, will only lead to more confrontations as bitter as the one the decision purports to resolve. I hope that will not be the case. How prophetic that was.

I will also tell you that I have a long history with your Village. In 1973 I was a

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2 resident on Seven Springs Road. Imagine my  
3 surprise when I found out that you wanted to take  
4 my house into your Village. Oh, yeah. Isn't  
5 that too bad. Well, the Elroy homes, a few of my  
6 neighbors on Seven Springs Road, we fought it,  
7 and if you look at the zoning maps we won the  
8 battle. We were kept out of the Village of KJ.  
9 We had a spot zone around us. Part of my house  
10 is still not in the Village of Kiryas Joel.  
11 That's section 8 I believe on your new proposal.

12 I would also like to point out that when  
13 you bought the house it was a blue collar  
14 neighborhood, there were no sidewalks, there were  
15 no street lights, and yet you chose to live  
16 there. If you didn't like it then, don't buy  
17 there.

18 The other thing you can do is have special  
19 improvement districts. You could pay through  
20 your taxes to have lights and sidewalks built in  
21 those streets.

22 The other thing I'd like to point out,  
23 unfortunately there's nobody left, is that I  
24 believe the annexation is contrary to our State  
25 Constitution which is the home rule.

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MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

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MR. GOLDSTEIN: What?

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MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

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MR. GOLDSTEIN: Oh. I would like our legislators to revisit these annexation rules and rewrite them. Thank you.

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SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you, Mr.

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Goldstein. Mr. Brower.

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MR. WELLS: Following Mr. Brower is Carla

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Costillo.

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MR. BROWER: Ward Brower, a private

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citizen from the Town of Monroe. Thank you for

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the time, even though it's only three minutes.

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It's not enough time to address all that's wrong

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with this annexation, so I'll go to another

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topic.

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What's wrong with the annexation process.

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Some flaws. Selection of lead agency. We select

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lead agency from agencies that are involved. The

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problem is involved agencies come with motivation

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or bias. Now how can that possibly affect the

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outcome? Well, if you're a lead agency with bias

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or motivation, you can hold a meeting on an

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inclement night, thereby restricting turnout. If

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you're a lead agency with bias you can push the time clock ahead on this, therefore not giving enough time to adequately address all -- address all the ramifications.

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The next thing that's possibly wrong here is when this is contested and ends up in the courts, case history tells us over 80 percent of the court findings favor municipalities with service -- high services, high density, generally deep pockets.

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And also I have, in addition, very laxed or lack -- very laxed or non-existing environmental concerns. Commissioner Martens commented in a letter many of us wrote saying that the Village of Kiryas Joel is a shiny example of good high-density development versus urban sprawl. He sort of probably lifted this from the concept of cluster development. Cluster development is easier to define than to -- I'll give you an example. With cluster development you have a theoretical 40 acre piece of property. If you had one acre zoning, if you put the 40 homes on 10 acres you would have 30 acres leftover for open space and whatever. That's not

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what we see here. We have one square mile. Where is the three square miles of open space for water, air, biodiversity, et cetera? It's not there.

Last of all, this is a home rule state. The representatives of this Village went up to Albany pleading home rule, get Orange County Department of Planning out of our hair. The most anti-home rule thing you could do, a process we have on the books, is this annexation. The biggest --

MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

R. BROWER: -- threat to home rule is to have a neighboring municipality come in and annex your home. It's unconstitutional if you accept New York State Constitutional premises that we're a home rule state, and if you can have a neighboring municipality come and annex your home, this law is not legal.

The last five minutes I want to thank you for your time.

SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you, Mr. Brower.

MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Carla Castillo. Carla Castillo or Casillo. Christine

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Durso.

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MS. DURSO: There were seventy-six speakers tonight, approximately. So thank you to the Board for having me speak. I'm Christine Durso. I have spoken before. I'm not going to talk about the annexation. Everything that could be said has been said.

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I'm actually concerned, though, really about what this is doing to the community and what this panel has not thought through. It saddens me to know that we're being accused of being anti-Semitic and yet facts are being presented that have nothing to do with religion. You know, I could put it out there. My grandfather was a World War II veteran. Okay. He was born before the Titanic, he lived through World War I, served in World War II, lived through Vietnam, saw the World Trade Tower fall, saw many disasters of his time. But I can tell you that to this day his proudest and most achieving moment was helping to liberate not just Auschwitz but men in concentration camps, and that is a horrible, horrible, horrible thing to accuse so many American citizens who have family members



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who have proudly served in the armed services and

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who have also served themselves.

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You know, as a person who lives in Monroe

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I have had many encounters with members of the

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Hasidm community. Last year I had been in the

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parking lot of Target working on my car, putting

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some windshield wiper fluid in it, and a

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gentleman came over and asked me if I was having

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problems with my car. I thanked him profusely,

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letting him know that I had not had problems, I

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was just taking care of it. I think he was

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surprised that a woman was able to take care of

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her car, but was also very nice. I wonder if

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that gentleman was present tonight or what his

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views are on this annexation, creating such a

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ripple in our community, tearing things apart.

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You know, I would -- I welcome all members

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of society in my community. I live in a

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development that's very diverse, Mexicans,

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Italians, Puerto Ricans, Irish like myself,

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Italian like my husband.

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MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

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MS. DURSO: There's nothing that we've

done in our community that sets us as being

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anti-Semitic. We just want to see the parklands and the woods that we moved here for being preserved and not being overrun. That's all I need. I don't need any more time.

MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Aron Spielman. Aron Spielman, followed by Beatrice Burgis. Shioma Weiss. Aron Spielman.

MR. WEISS: Good evening. I feel a little foolish to keep all those people at that time of the night.

MR. WELLS: Speak your name, please.

MR. WEISS: My name is Shioma Weiss. I'm a resident here in the Village and I'm the CEO of the (inaudible) center dealing with children with special needs. I really don't have that much to offer that was here before.

As we all know, that as of now there are many homes for sale in the Monroe area. It's mostly private homes which are expensive and the taxes are not affordable. There are no affordable large condo homes available for sale in the greater Monroe area. As my experience all those years dealing with children, I learned that a normal and affordable home environment gives a

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lot to the upbringing of all the children,  
especially for the children with special needs.

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The annexation is the only way to have  
more affordable large condos for middle income  
families with the children/family lifestyle.

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So please approve the annexation to the  
earliest convenience because many families and  
children are relying on it. Thank you.

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Just one more second since I have the mic  
in my hand. I think this is the place to express  
my token of appreciation for all the elected  
officials from the Town and the County and from  
the Village, and especially for our mayor. From  
living here I'm amazed how creative, professional  
and organized all the public services are. I  
know that it takes hard work and a lot of  
planning, et cetera. As of human nature you are  
not getting any positive feedback, you're rather  
getting criticism. So I would like to tell you  
that people do appreciate your hard work. Keep  
it up and God should bless you. Thank you.

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MR. WELLS: Aron Spielman, Beatrice  
Burgis, Shmaye Krausz, Jeff Manson.

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MR. SPIELMAN: I want to start --

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MR. WELLS: State your name, please.

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MR. SPIELMAN: My name is Aron Spielman.  
What a beautiful wedding hall in the poorest  
Village. I want to clarify something. This  
wedding hall was donated by someone.

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I have a question to ask tonight. How can  
some people on one hand declare that no one is  
above the law and that everyone should play by  
the same rules, and in the meantime demanding  
that the current is not fair and should be  
changed. It's like saying if the law agrees with  
my view it's good, and if not it should be  
modified. If there's a law regarding annexation  
that at some point favors the petitioners,  
everyone should agree to it and not try to change  
it. If the law was good until now, it should be  
good from now on. The slogan that everyone  
should follow the same laws shouldn't be used as  
a double standard. If it's the current law  
everyone is entitled to follow it.

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So please say yes to annexation and follow  
the law. Thank you.

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MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Shmayer  
Krausz.

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2 MR. KRAUSZ: Good evening. My name is  
3 Shmaye Krausz. As one of the annexation  
4 petitioners I know that this annexation has  
5 caused concern to some people who like living in  
6 a rural setting and are concerned about high-  
7 density developments. I will ask them to give a  
8 look at an actual area of annexation according to  
9 the area of the neighborhood. The annexation  
10 area is that small that it's difficult to spot on  
11 a regular Orange County map. It's less than a  
12 tenth of a percent of the 537,000 acres of Orange  
13 County. It's less than 4 percent of the nearly  
14 14,000 acres of land in Monroe.

15 People need to take into consideration  
16 that annexation is the only possible way to make  
17 sure that we maintain a buffer zone between the  
18 communities which is essential for everyone.

19 I also want to point out that I own a home  
20 in the Town of Monroe. My tax bill this year for  
21 school tax, town tax and county tax is well above  
22 \$20,000. Do you know what that bill would be in  
23 the Kiryas Joel School District and in the  
24 Village of Monday -- Village of Kiryas Joel?  
25 More than thirty percent less. I would not get

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less services, I would get more services. And because of this I urge you to please pass annexation. Good night.

MR. WELLS: The next speak is Jeff Manson, followed by Isaac Schnithlur. Jeff Mason. Joel Lowy. Jonas Hoffman.

MR. LOWY: Good evening. My name is Joel Lowy. Allow me to give you my take on the annexation argument. Since it's inception in 1974 Kiryas Joel exceptionally excelled being a crime-free Village. We would like to continue living this way and we don't want to surrender the crime-free setting the Village of Kiryas Joel offers. That is why we need more land to expand that beautiful way of living so that future generations should benefit the same peaceful crime-free Village we live in.

Accordingly I ask you please approve the annexation. Thank you.

SUPERVISOR DOLES: The next speaker is going to have the luxury of being able to -- for us to be able to say good morning. For whoever that is, is that Jonas Hoffman? Good morning.

MR. HOFFMAN: Yes, that is Jonas Hoffman.

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I would like to take the opportunity to thank the

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leaders of our Village of KJ for taking on the

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task of worrying about the future of our

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children. I don't know if the leaders are aware,

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the last two-and-a-half weeks, 23 new couples got

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married. They have to have where to live. The

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next couple of weeks there's 22 more coming.

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These people --

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SUPERVISOR DOLES: Please keep it down in

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the back.

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MR. HOFFMAN: These people need where to

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live. I'm not so sure that all of these couples

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have a proper apartment where to live in. Plus,

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we have over 100 families moved out in the last

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year to live here because they found that this

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place is a beautiful place to live.

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And then we have our school system. Our

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way of life is that the girls stay around the

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family, they don't move out after they get

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married. We have in our school system over 8,000

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girls. And you know what that means? In the

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next couple of years where are these 8,000 girls

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going to live? These kids need apartments, these

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kids need room where to live in.

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And to the Town officials I would like to say annexation, it only helps the Town, expands the Town, it makes -- this town is going to be the biggest Town in the County. It brings economy, it picks up the economy, helps the economy, it creates jobs.

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When you look to the jobs it creates you start from the planning, the architects, the land surveyors, the excavators, the foundations, the framers. Everybody is coming in and working here, and that boosts up the economy for the whole Town. It's a benefit to everybody.

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And then a small little thing that people were talking, it's not anti-Semitism. We know that. The food industry, when you produce a type of food, you don't have to write all the ingredients on the label.

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MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds, sir.

MR. HOFFMAN: There's a certain percent that does not have to be labeled.

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Behind everybody's speech was a little bit anti-Semitism in there. It's just painful to hear so much that there's surrounded by so much anti-Semitism. I would really would like to see



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this annexation go through.

SUPERVISOR DOLES: Please let the record reflect that Mr. Hoffman is a member of the Town of Monroe Zoning Board.

MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Nathan Loeb.

MR. LOEB: Hello. Good night. Good evening everybody. I would like first to introduce myself. I am married to the daughter of Jonas Hoffman. I would like to ask the Town and Village Board to approve the annexation. Our families and our children need housing.

SUPERVISOR DOLES: Could you speak into the mic, please. Just raise it.

MR. LOEB: They need it in their environment they wish. They are many people with many different lifestyles, but in our community most people have large families and they like the urban style of living. You can't put a woman that doesn't drive a car in a desert. You can't put children in a rich family in te jungle. They need company, they need environment. The children need friends to play with.

I think there's a lack of understanding.

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If everyone would understand how important the annexation is for so many people, then everyone would support it.

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I love -- I love -- I personally love society. I love to meet with all kinds of people. This is adding beauty in our lives. Beautiful art is combined from all different colors. The same as with society. But there's something weird behind it. Everyone should respect other's opinion. It's all about being positive to others. There's something like accepting others and there's something like respecting others. Even though you have different clothes but you should understand that someone could think differently. It's called we agree to disagree.

I would like to ask the Town to approve the annexation for the good of this community. Even though for myself I wouldn't like the annexation because I was looking to buy a house in the Town of Monroe, not in such -- so much people around me. But the annexation, the price of the housing is getting up because they all -- because it's getting annexed so I could ask much

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more. I understand that for the good of most of the people there annexation is needed. So that's why I support the annexation.

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SUPERISOR DOLES: Thank you.

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MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Berish Stern, followed by Kornbluh Yitzchon.

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MR. STERN: Good evening. My name is Berish Stern, I live in Town of Monroe for the last fifteen years.

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I would like to have some clarification from United Monroe on the annexation impact. While I'm driving home I'm staying -- I'm on exit 16, staying in traffic while Woodbury Commons doubled their size right now as we speak. As we speak they're doubling their parking, they're doubling their whole place over there. They're doubling. Nobody has a problem with that. Nobody has a problem with the impact from them. Nobody has a problem while this is annexation is going through. They're seeing that right now. They are waiting in traffic trying to get home and they -- nobody has a problem with their impact over there, getting home. Just getting home to Town of Monroe or getting home to KJ.

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Now, now as we speak they don't have any problems with that.

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I'm driving down on a Friday afternoon, I'm driving down Larkin Drive trying to go home, trying to see the car impact that they say that KJ is going to have. I would like to see where the impact is going. For the last -- since the annexation is -- they're talking about annexation I'm trying to analyze what the car impact is going to be. I'm driving down Larkin Drive trying to look into cars. I'm seeing maybe five cars. It's from County Route 105 until -- almost until Wal-Mart there's cars over there. I'm trying to look in, how many cars are going into KJ. I see maybe five cars are going into KJ. I don't see where the impact is going over there with the cars. I don't see what this is going to do. Even though we have a problem with the car impact, KJ has still a credit because only half of the cars that -- half of the people that live in KJ only drive. So we still have a credit for doubling and have double cars to bring in. Even though we're going to double, we're still going to have the same amount of cars. Nothing is

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going to change like a different place in a different community. Everything is going to be the same. Realistically we are entitled of double cars.

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I would like to know -- I would like to know the impact what they have about multiple dwellings. I don't see in Cornwall, I don't see in New Windsor. They're building multiple dwellings. They don't have no problem that 32 can handle all this stuff. They have only a problem that KJ has a problem that's going to impact over here, over there. This is happening right now. Why don't --

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MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

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MR. STERN: -- they look at that and try to take care of those business that this is only imposing. This is trying to get -- KJ is trying to get annexation. This is happening right now. Let them look right now and work on those impacts, then they should work on impacts that's going to happen. Thank you.

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SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you, sir. The next speaker.

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MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Kornbluh

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Yitzchon, followed by Israel Kraus, followed by Cheskel Werzberger.

MR. KORNBLUH: My name is Yitzchon Kornbluh. Throughout the annexation process many bring up the argument that since 93 percent of KJ residents are on Medicaid the expansion is not in the best financial interest of the County. I will give my view on this. First of all, who makes a number of 93 percent? If you look inside the actual County report, when you include Child Health Plus, it's about 65 percent. I agree that we are number one in the County but we need to take in perspective all of the nearly fifty categories of the county government. Many in KJ have nothing, like the nursing home, the criminal court, the jail and college tuition as well as County employees. Every neighborhood is unique and has their special needs. In Newburgh it's security. In Middletown it's college. In KJ it's healthcare, large families. If a child outside of KJ is eligible to help for their healthcare, a KJ child should also be entitled to it, and no one can demand us not to have a pro-family lifestyle.

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The annexation will help cover the future County expenses because it will generate new property sales tax income.

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Good night for all.

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SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you, sir.

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MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Israel Kraus. Cheskel Werzberger.

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MR. WERZBERGRE: Supervisor, Mayor, Leaders and Town Board Members, I've been here since the beginning of this evening, in and out, it was quite long. I prepared myself a speech. I hear both sides of the aisle and I do not think I have anything to add.

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I would like to mention, Mr. Kornbluh just spoke a minute before me and he explained a point that I believe wasn't explained well enough during the whole evening regarding the usage of our -- of the resources that the County has to provide that the residents of Kiryas Joel use. I was up in the Village office in the morning and I just -- I made some research regarding crime. Of course crime -- there's the jail involved and criminal courts. I believe the sheriff's office. I'm not so familiar with the certain courts, but

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on a scale from 1 to 100, the Village of --

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that's public information online, the Village of

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Kiryas Joel has a 95 rate. The less crime and 0

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the biggest crime. The Town of Monroe, Wallkill,

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the surrounding areas are at 45 or 43 percent on

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a scale from 0 to 100. So that all definitely

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means less cost from KJ residents.

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I would like to make just one more point.

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I would put myself in a position standing on the

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other side of the aisle if these people were

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talking about controlled growth, non controlled

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growth, smart growth, unsmart growth. For these

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people on the other side of the aisle of KJ, the

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smartest decision to make is to approve the

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annexation. If the annexation is not approved,

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in fifty years from now, in twenty years from

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now, the entire podium here is going to be filled

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with our people.

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There was someone before who mentioned the

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Monroe Woodbury School District. I can't even

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imagine from where that argument comes because

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everyone thinking a little bit with a sharp mind

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would know if we approve annexation, the KJ

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School District is going to provide a service for



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all of us, even in the annexed area. If not, we are going to move into the Town of Monroe and Monroe-Woodbury School District and then they're going to feel our impact there.

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So for the best of us, for the best of our future, the best of our children's future, please approve the annexation.

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MR. WELLS: Cheskel Werzberger.

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MR. WERZBERGER: Good morning. My name is Cheskel Werzberger. Allow me to give you my take on the argument. Kiryas Joel is unique in that it gives us the real opportunity to live in a healthy environment and a crime-free village. We want to continue living this way. We don't want to change our style of living to less safe towns and villages. That is why we need more land to expand our beautiful way of living. We want our children and grandchildren to live in the same peaceful village, so I ask you to please approve the annexation. Thank you.

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SUPERVISOR DOLES: The next speaker, please.

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MR. WELLS: Elyah Farkas.

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MR. FARKAS: Good evening. We are here

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for a public hearing to hear everyone's opinion regarding the proposed annexation. I'm sure that everyone who lives in the Town understands the importance of this issue and participating in tonight's hearing.

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Apparently we left out to invite the most important group who will be affected. Those are the children. So I will talk a few words for them. We have now in KJ about 16,000 children from age 0 to age 20. They are worried for their future. They look for us to deal with the housing crisis when they will become older. They'll have to choose between paying a high price living in a one-bedroom apartment or to search for expensive housing in the surrounding neighborhoods. I won't make their choice for them.

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So I ask in the name of 16,000 children, please approve the 507 acre annexation. I would also like to ask if it's possible to multiply my comments to 16,000 comments for the voice of those 16,000 children. Thank you.

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MR. WELLS: The last speaker who signed up is Mr. Simon Gelb.

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SUPERVISOR DOLES: Good morning, Mr. Gelb.

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MR. GELB: Good morning. Good morning. I had quite a bit to say, however given the late hour, the early hour, let's do something very productive, which is by the way also in the public interest. Let's go to sleep and I will present my comments in writing. Thank you.

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SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you very much, Mr. Gelb, for that.

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MR. GELB: Good morning all.

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SUPERVISOR DOLES: Ladies and gentlemen, we're not -- please. For the Village -- we're still in session. We have not adjourned.

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MR. WELLS: Is there a motion to close this hearing?

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SUPERVISOR DOLES: Unless there's comment from any of the individual Board Members from the Town or Village, I need a motion to adjourn.

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BOARD MEMBER: I'll make that motion.

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SUPERVISOR DOLES: We need a second.

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BOARD MEMBER: Second.

SUPERVISOR DOLES: Unless there's any discussion -- ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Town of Monroe and the Village of Kiryas

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Joel, we thank you very much for your attending.  
We embrace your comments. With God's grace we'll  
be able to resolve this issue so that it reaches  
the satisfaction of everyone.

Thank you very much and we stand  
adjourned.

## C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, Michelle Conero, a Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public within and for the State of New York, do hereby certify that I recorded stenographically the proceedings herein at the time and place noted in the heading hereof, and that the foregoing is an accurate and complete transcript of same to the best of my knowledge and belief.

*Michelle Conero*

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DATED: June 26, 2010

	<b>abused (1)</b> 105:3	200:22	154:16	<b>advantaged (1)</b> 179:3
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<b>\$1,000,000 (1)</b> 154:5	<b>Academy (1)</b> 101:25	<b>acquire (1)</b> 189:14	<b>addition (6)</b> 30:17;31:9;48:10, 13;69:5;198:12	<b>advertise (1)</b> 44:7
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<b>\$20,000 (1)</b> 205:22	<b>acceptable (1)</b> 129:9	<b>accepted (1)</b> 180:14	<b>Additionally (4)</b> 5:15;6:6;24:25; 166:11	<b>advertising (1)</b> 151:7
<b>\$200,000 (1)</b> 45:6	<b>accepted (1)</b> 180:14	<b>accepting (2)</b> 128:22;210:13	<b>address (25)</b> 18:12;32:22;48:22; 52:10;89:9,12;90:6, 7;95:17;100:17,18, 23;101:2;138:3; 142:5;143:7;145:2; 165:16;177:10,18,21; 183:22;197:15; 198:4,4	<b>advice (1)</b> 135:7
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