

TMT rec'd 6/12/15

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ROBERT E. REW JR. (1912-1960)
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OUR FILE # _____

June 9, 2015

(via e-mail: tmiller@fimmillerassociates.com & regular mail)

Village of Kiryas Joel
c/o Tim Miller Associates, Inc.
10 North Street
Cold Spring, New York 10516

Re: Village of Kiryas Joel Annexation of 510 Acres from the Town of Monroe

To Members of the General Public as well as all interested
and involved agencies

This office serves as counsel to the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Monroe Joint Fire District. The Board of Fire Commissioners and the Monroe Fire Department will be, we expect, the authority ultimately responsible for fire protection within the annexation area. We note that there is some documentation in the record which would seem to indicate that fire protection will be provided by an entity known as the "Fire Brigade" of the Village of Kiryas Joel.

In order to address fire protection concerns adequately, annexation proponents should provide information or assurances on the following points:

1. What is the official status of the Kiryas Joel fire department?
2. Why are residents instructed to call Kiryas Joel emergency dispatch in lieu of 911?
3. Does the "fire brigade" follow the New York State guidelines of two firefighters into an alarm of fire and two firefighters standing by for rescue.
4. What firefighting equipment does the "fire brigade" have?
5. Does the "fire brigade" have full-time firefighters on duty?
6. How many qualified and trained members (volunteer or paid) does the "fire brigade" have?
7. What are their qualifications: interior, exterior, or otherwise?

June 9, 2015

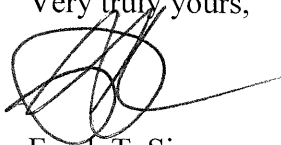
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In the event that the final annexation, should it occur, will rely upon the Village or its designated fire brigade, the end result may be that the Monroe Fire Department will often be called in on mutual aid response. This means that, in effect, the taxpayers of the Monroe Joint Fire District will shoulder the costs of fire protection in the Village without any contribution to those costs from Village inhabitants or their tax assessments. Given the high number of calls received even at the present time from the Village, this results in the potential abuse of the mutual aid system. This is exacerbated by the delay in the calls for assistance received from Village residents and visitors as detailed below.

The Monroe Fire Department has noted difficulties in the past responding to alarms of fire or other general emergency within the Village of Kiryas Joel. These difficulties stem largely from the practice of businesses and residents within the Village of calling the "Fire Brigade" or some emergency number provided within the village community, rather than 911, so that the calls may be properly routed through Orange County Dispatch. This has resulted and, we expect will continue to result, in delays of response or failures of timely response to fires and general emergencies. The proposed annexation will act to expand the geographic area in which this dangerous condition exists. Responsible fire protection has been jeopardized by the manner in which the Village of Kiryas Joel and its inhabitants have routed calls for alarms of fire or other general emergencies. The effect of this must be considered in any further annexation efforts.

In sum, the Monroe Fire Commissioners wish to go on record opposed to the annexation. Please note the interest of the Monroe Joint Fire District in this annexation proceeding and provide any response or request to the Board of Fire Commissioners at the address shown below with a copy to this office.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Frank T. Simeone", written over a circular stamp or mark.

Frank T. Simeone

FTS:gu

cc: Board of Fire Commissioners
Monroe Joint Fire District
406 North Main Street
Monroe, New York 10950