



County Legislature

Michael Amo, Legislator
1st Legislative District

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June 20, 2015

To: Mayor Abraham Wieder, Village of Kiryas Joel (NY)
Supervisor Harley Doles, Town of Monroe (NY)

From: Michael Amo, Orange County Legislator 

Subj: Annexation

The issue of annexation in your municipalities has drawn tremendous attention from the public and vote-seeking politicians. The New York State Constitution (Article IX) affords you the right to take such action. The opposition to annexation is driven by half-truths, opinions and myths. I am confident that the study being undertaken by the county will erase these concerns.

However, noteworthy is the fact that the aforementioned study commissioned by the County of Orange for \$200,000 appears to be driven by a unique policy affecting only the Village of Kiryas Joel and the Town of Monroe's annexation. At the Rules committee on June 17, 2015, I offered "a same as" resolution for the annexation taking place in the City of Middletown and the Town of Wallkill. It was soundly defeat 7-1; the very same vote count that passed the resolution to study your municipalities annexation. This is no coincidence. It is clear to me that the County Legislature has a bias when it comes to certain annexations and not to others. As a result, I recommend that you review comments made by the county for your annexation by the consultants engaged by the aforementioned resolution with extreme scrutiny.

In the more than 16 years that I have served in the Orange County Legislature (11/1998—6/2015), there has been planned and consistent growth in the Village of Kiryas Joel. The Village has efficiently responded to this growth within their one square mile boundaries. Over the years Kiryas Joel residents who were unable to build houses within the village limits have done so just outside to avail themselves of the culture the community offers them. During this same period the village has sought many options to supply the necessary water for their residents. Rather than consume water from local aqueducts serving neighboring communities, Kiryas Joel looked at ways to import needed water. The best answer was to tap into the New York City Aqueduct like other Orange County municipalities have done. At their own expense they are constructing a water pipeline.

As founding members of the Orange County Sewer District Kiryas Joel residents through taxation have paid for the plant and improvements as dictated by the county. As a result they have equal rights with other members of the district to access the services of the plant for which they paid.

Aside from water and sewer, the last obstacle to planned growth for the village is land on which to build needed housing. With the developable land within the village saturated other options are

needed. Annexation is the smartest solution for all involved. For obvious reason of quality of life, cultural integrity, religious preferences, taxation and civic involvement, clearly the proposed annexation of the 507 acres from the town of Monroe to the Village of Kiryas Joel should be approved by your respective Boards.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the annexation proposal before you.

**RULES, ENACTMENTS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
AGENDA**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2015
3:30 P.M.**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Katie Bonelli Chair
Michael Amo, Jeffrey D. Berkman, Melissa Bonacic, James DiSalvo, Kevin Hines, James Kulisek, Myrna K. Kemnitz

I. DAVID CHURCH, AICP, COMMISSIONER OF PLANNING

- i. Approve SEQRA and review and approval of inclusion of lands into the Orange County Agricultural District Nos. 1 & 2**
(with T/Newburgh SBL 14-1-48 & T/Wallkill SBL 31-1-26.1; 31-1-27
subject to Public Hearing on 7/1/15)
(PLEASE BRING YOUR MAP PACKETS WITH YOU TO THIS MEETING)
- ii. Set another Public Hearing on two (2) parcels which had error in public notification of previous public hearing on 6/4/15**
(T/Newburgh SBL 14-1-48 & T/Wallkill SBL 31-1-26.1; 31-1-27)
(Public Hearing - 7/1/15 - 6:45 P.M.)
- iii. Approve EAF and review and approval of Economic Development Strategy Plan (Orange County Comprehensive Plan)**
(PLEASE BRING YOUR COLOR COPY WITH YOU FOR THE MEETING)

II. DISCUSSION RE: ANNEXATION

III. MICHAEL AMO, INDEPENDENCE PARTY LEADER

Request supplemental appropriation to the 2015 Planning Department budget in the amount of \$200,000.00 in order to prepare an environmental impact statement and complete other analysis in relation to the proposed annexation of land between the City of Middletown and the Town of Wallkill

ORANGE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Committees: Rules, Enactments and Intergovernmental Relations
Sponsor: Amo

Agenda No.

RESOLUTION NO. OF 2015

RESOLUTION MAKING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION TO THE 2015 ORANGE COUNTY BUDGET FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, PURSUANT TO SECTION 4.09 OF THE ORANGE COUNTY CHARTER.

WHEREAS, this Legislature does wish to provide funds to the 2015 budget of the Orange County Department of Planning in the amount of \$200,000.00 in order to prepare an environmental impact statement and complete other analysis in relation to the proposed annexation of land between the City of Middletown and Town of Wallkill, and in order to accomplish said purposes does wish to supplement the 2015 budget for the Orange County Department of Planning; and

WHEREAS, this is an estimated, not to exceed cost for professional services and expenses to supplement existing County staff as needed in both the preparation of environmental impact analysis and the review of analysis prepared by other agencies including the City of Middletown and Town of Wallkill. The Department of Planning will work with professional staff within the Department of Public Works and other Departments to define what in house capacity needs to be supplemented by other professionals or other sources.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby

RESOLVED, that the 2015 budget for the Orange County Department of Planning is hereby supplemented as indicated below, which money is to prepare an environmental impact statement and complete other analysis in relation to the proposed annexation of land between the City of Middletown and Town of Wallkill as stated above, and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Commissioner of Finance is hereby authorized to make such modifications forthwith.

Revenue:

1010 199001 410011	County Taxation	(\$200,000.00)
1010 802002 410011	County Taxation	\$200,000.00

Expenses:

1010 199001 579880	Provision for Contingencies	(\$200,000.00)
1010 802002 571820	Consultant Services	\$200,000.00