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To: tmiller@timmlerassociates.com
Subject: Written Comments SEQRA PUBLIC HEARING / ANNEXATION PUBLIC HEARING 507 and/or 164 Acres Town of Monroe - 6-22-15

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Thank you.

Comment #: _____

SEQRA PUBLIC HEARING / ANNEXATION PUBLIC HEARING
for the
ANNEXATION OF 507 and/or 164 ACRES FROM THE TOWN OF MONROE TO THE
VILLAGE OF KIRYAS JOEL

Written Comment Form

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1. We simply DO NOT HAVE THE **NATURAL RESOURCES TO SUSTAIN THE PROJECTED POPULATION GROWTH IN THIS AREA WITHOUT EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSIVE MEANS THAT SHOULD NOT BE BORNE BY THE OVERALL COMMUNITY FOR WHICH A HUGE ACQUISITION OF NATURAL RESOURCES WOULD BE NEEDED** whether from the unsmart, unsustainable growth of the KJ community already here OR and influx of people to a built up, rezoned, high growth annexation land.

2. It is ridiculous to build a **13 mile pipeline** to tap the NYC Water Supply. **NYC has not issued permits for this - and the water in NYC has become more expensive than ever to its residents. The NYC Water Board has not approved the tapping of their Water Supply for KJ.** Even KJ residents will incur **HIGH WATER RATES** from NYC should this ever be approved. Only political support exists as a result of the assurance of the block vote. There will be a tremendous resistance to this plan from the NYC residents and the Water Board which again has so far been done without proper approvals.

The inactive Cornwall wells beneath the property purchased by KJ interests has inaccurately been reported to NOT HAVE ANY EFFECT ON THE RESIDENTIAL LOCAL RESIDENTS OF CORNWALL. This is simply not true as reported by the Mayor of Cornwall. There has to be another way involving **FOLLOWING THE ZONING LAWS AND THE RULES OF GOVERNMENT!**

2a. Consequences of massive building and development - Who will be responsible for the aquifer and the quality of water to the surrounding neighbors as far as the aquifer will provide if, as is a normal occurrence construction causes the pollution of such aquifer? Will the polluted aquifer causing compromised water, perhaps even brown drinking water allow those who have been harmed to sue construction companies and developers? **A SOLE SOURCE AQUIFER** for this region has always been met by the DEC with rulings that all development in such areas would be denied and the permitting would be rejected as well as building proposals because if the aquifer IS our single source then **THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY WOULD BE HARMED.**

2b. At the Public Comment hearing several residents of KJ who lived within the annexation proposal lands spoke to **needing services** that the town has so far not provided. Like anyone else in any area of the town - **all property owners may petition the town to create or develop a water district, a sewer district and the town CAN grant you the OK to create one providing that you pay for it.** Has a petition ever been filed to the town for such services? I myself enjoy my well water - I drink it, I wash with it, I shower with it and I love it. Massive construction projects will certainly damage the aquifer and who knows what effect that will be. A single home built in 2000 about 200 yards away turned my water brown for a week.. Imagine what massive development would do. If these residents of the unincorporated town of Monroe HAVE indeed approached the town for such services (including sidewalks and lights) and the town has refused them, it would be easy to ask some of the townspeople such as those in United Monroe to help them get these services. This side of town would help them. It appears both the Village and Town governments intentionally would not - in an effort to make more of a case for unsupported annexation.

3. SEWER - The KJ leaders have shown complete disregard for the community outside of KJ. Every single proposal, every single act through government is completely based on their own sole interests (the leaders, developers and power brokers). The damage and harm to the overall community INCLUDING the people of KJ perpetuates an unfair gaming of the system and forces the government (us) to pay for things that we should not be paying for based on the magic bookkeeping of the culture. The rest of Orange County outside of KJ is not growing at an unsustainable rate, therefore no drastic measures for water is needed. The system is set up so that those living in sewer district #1 MUST share in the burden of improvements and fines for environmental violations. We are running at capacity in Harriman most of the time. There is simply no body of water other than the Ramapo River to handle sewage. ONLY the needs of KJ exceed the rest of Orange County in needing sewage disposal. The system is unfairly stacked against the non-KJ communities in the county who are NOT growing at an uncontrollable exponential rate to share in the penalty of overuse and misuse of the sewage system yet KJ continuously has been shown to have environmental violations and fines in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Harriman just cannot expand. The stench at the county sewage plant in Harriman has caused the quality of life of Harriman residents to suffer severely. **To pay hundreds of millions of dollars to create a sewer pipeline and upgrade or even build new sewage treatment plants miles away from KJ for their sole needs and not the needs of the rest of the residents of Orange County is heinous and unfair at best. It is simply not in the best interest of the community.**

THERE HAS BEEN NO RESPONSE from the KJ Village Board to Mayor Welle of Harriman regarding having even a simple dialog about this when such issues regularly arise. Another example of how KJ leaders have no concern for the general public.

4. VACANT APARTMENTS IN KJ, KJ Low Income Housing - In a meeting I had at the Orange County Department of Real Property and Budget, I was told that **10% of all the apartments in KJ are VACANT!!! WHY???** A conservative estimate of today's KJ population is 25,000 in spite of all studies intentionally using numbers for everything that are over FIVE YEARS OLD! These vacant apartments could house 2,500 people!!! And yet public knowledge has printed 8,500 new units to be developed on rezoned annexed lands which could accommodate as much as 50,000 new people. NYS in the form of housing grants, aid and also Federal Funds are paid to KJ every year yet it's been 12 years since a village lottery was held to award **low income housing** to the poorest of KJ residents. **WHERE IS THIS MONEY AND WHY HAS KJ BEEN ALLOWED TO DISREGARD THE LAWFUL APPROPRIATING OF A PORTION OF THESE STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDS TOWARDS LOW INCOME HOUSING?**

5. EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLANS AND TRAFFIC - There are only two roads in and out of KJ. Both of them merge into the only major arteries that would be used to escape from the area. With additional population - in the event of a natural emergency or otherwise (earthquake, nuclear accident, the exit of KJ currently would completely block the entire rest of the town. Only 13 miles away Indian Point could have such an event at any time. We've had two serious events causing shutdown of the nuclear reactors in the past two months. Even now the density of KJ would delay any evacuations. This does not appear to be addressed in the DGEIS. How many people would die in such an emergency because proper evacuation procedures were not addressed?

6. Sadly, **HOME VALUES** outside of KJ have **plummeted**. It is extremely disconcerting AND disturbing that the real estate market has collapsed. My home has plummeted in value by 33% in the past two years. I wouldn't be able to sell it for what I paid for it 20 years ago! **The average price of a single family home is now under 200k** in the Town of Monroe outside of KJ in spite of what the real estate brokers will tell you. **It is now cheaper to buy a house here than an apartment in KJ which averages 200K..** A flyer has been distributed by KJ developers that indicate **new construction will be \$200 per sq foot!!** The new apartments will be an average of **2400 square feet. That's an average price for new apartments of \$480K!!!** People who have invested their life savings in a home in the Town of Monroe **CANNOT SELL THEIR HOMES WITHOUT GIVING THEM AWAY**, and even then nobody is coming here to even look at homes, let alone purchase. For this bucolic, rural residential community to suffer the immeasurable stress of losing their investments, being unable to leave when in fact most love living here, is all **because of the uncertainty of uncontrolled development designed for one specific group of people that does not participate in the overall community.** It is also unfortunate that the uncertainty spreads to the future of the Monroe-Woodbury School District as the blue print of the destruction of the East Ramapo School District is becoming all too public and the sleeping residents and prospective buyers are becoming **ALL TOO AWARE. What is happening to those of us who are non-hasidic is of no concern to the leaders of KJ AND the**

elected officials picked by their block vote. This is morally criminal and certainly not in the spirit of community.

7. When **Dov Hikind** was paid to come up to the KJ public comment forum on June 10 to spew hatred, accusations and insinuations at all of us outside the Hasidic community, he and attorney Barshow - continued to paint those **not Hassids as anti-semitic and our new N word - Nazis which is so deplorable it warrants national attention.** As a Jew who celebrates the American way of life I am disgusted and offended as this rhetoric is **ALL LIES! As a Jew Mr. Hikind should remember the commandments - especially “Thou Shalt Not Lie!”** They both stated that the community was going to grow at this excessive rate - which is unsupportable and certainly not “smart growth” and asked - “would you rather **THEY** (he used **THEY**) buy property all over Orange County?” The crowd - Town and County residents screamed out **YES!! WE expect the leaders to oversee that the insular community of the good people of KJ observe the zoning laws, the rules, and respect the overall spirit and intent that the founding fathers created to live as Americans just like the rest of us.** If they are not financially and fiscally responsible for raising their large families - **WHY SHOULD IT BE EVERYONE ELSE’S PROBLEM? THE SECULAR MULTI-DENOMINATIONAL TOWN is always willing to sit down and discuss possible solutions with our Hasidic neighbors - at least have a dialogue. The leaders would never want this, they’d lose power to the hearts and minds of the good people of KJ.**

THE EXPECTATION IS THAT THE QUALITY OF LIFE OUTSIDE OF KJ OF ALL THE RESIDENTS WHO CHOSE AND CONTINUE TO LIVE HERE SHOULD BE GREATLY DIMINISHED AT THE EXPENSE OF THE UNSUPPORTABLE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE OF ONLY KJ!!!

8. **THE BLOCK VOTE** consists of edicts from the leaders - the Rabbis and the Village Board as well as desperate intense hate-baiting and libelous campaigning by our Town Supervisor and HIS town council followers to mandate votes for representatives who will only be beholden - both covertly and overtly to **ALL** the wishes of the KJ Powers - not the good people of KJ. The village people - with the God given gift of free thought, are not permitted to vote with an informed conscience. They know not for whom they vote. The leaders will do everything to prevent the rest of the town to have **ANY** representation, they will not listen to **US** in a public forum and certainly not act within the budget comprised of **OUR** taxes for the overall good of the community. As an example, the movie theatre appears to be a siphoning drain of **ALL** the taxpaying Monroe citizens - without a business plan, and includes using the property taxes of KJ taxpayers even though the good people of KJ are forbidden to see movies. It is a bad business venture which has spent over 2 million dollars **ALREADY**. Since the movies rented get 1/2 the gross, **it would take 571,429.5 ticket sales to break even without buying another roll of toilet paper!! This building and its commercial movie venture belong in the private sector and BACK ON THE TAX ROLLS,** not owned and managed by the town government. It’s a money siphon designed to divide and conquer the opinion of the town who choose to remain uninformed.

It is the job of the town board to PROTECT ALL of the townspeople. The culture of the insular community of KJ promotes no interest in sitting down and meeting with us,

therefore we expect the town supervisor and town board to civilly be able to use logic and intelligence to deem whether the town should grant 507 acres or 164 acres from its sovereign borders. It is an easy decision to not allow unsustainable growth in our rural residential community for a myriad of reasons.. Water, Sewer, Traffic, Congestion, The Post Office.. The KJ BLOCK VOTE elected the town council to represent ALL of us. Not just KJ. We have little confidence that our needs and rural residential lifestyle will be protected by this board. The only sane vote to this is NO!

9. In a couple of years all the KJ children will be of **voting age** and again, know not for whom they vote - the worst of it being the harm it will do the the generations of folks who have roots in the Town of Monroe specifically to enjoy the rural residential lifestyle. We barely have any say in how the government wastes and decides to spend our precious money now. We might as well just write out our property tax checks to the Village Trustees. It will save on the extra level of paid administrative services and give them more of our tax money to spend on things the community does not want.

10. The town **MUST CREATE A WARD SYSTEM** for town council representation and KJ must not continue to be allowed to choose who the rest of the town's elected officials are especially when their culture doesn't permit coming together with the rest of the town's residents. Same is true for the school district. It would be the same as if the townspeople who do welcome and participate in the overall community FOR ALL - would take over the boards of the private schools. IT'S THE SAME THING!!! We exercise the common sense that we have no business doing that.

It is a real shame that the leaders and powers that be do everything possible to misinform and prevent the insular community of good people from branching out and joining us in events in the outside world - as right next door to KJ there is a most beautiful all-encompassing place with all-encompassing good people. The residents of theTown of Monroe.

******BOTH ANNEXATION PROPOSALS ARE NOT IN THE OVERALL INTEREST OF THE COMMUNITY.. THE EXPANSION as KJ has printed of "THE HOLY LAND" is not more important than the preservation and defense of the sovereign borders of the Town of Monroe - for which the Town Board has sworn an oath to protect.**

FINALLY - The leaders of KJ show absolutely no interest in respecting, sympathizing, and ALLOWING anyone outside of their community to be considered as humans with rights. Hopefully one day soon the Alliance will rise up, cooler heads will prevail, and we'll have peaceful and financial co-existence.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments.

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