



From the Desk of
Ari Felberman

Coordinator of the Mayor's Office for Government Relations

Mayor
Abraham Wieder

Village Clerk
Gedalye Szegedin

June 22, 2015

To whom it may concern:

Please consider my comments on the proposed annexation.

Kiryas Joel residents conduct themselves in accordance with their ancient traditions, they live and let live and don't impose their beliefs or customs on others.

When Chasidic Jews moved into the Town of Monroe, in 1974, they were met with official discrimination which made their lives miserable. It wasn't about water resources, sewer capacity, school district, growth (smart or otherwise), pollution, social services or any other excuse. It was simply; *we don't want Chasidic Jews here!* A federal lawsuit stopped the overt discrimination and created the Village of Kiryas Joel but the bias continues unabated.

Fast forward forty years and the following is a real snap shot of how the Village of Kiryas Joel stacks up with its neighbors and with the county.

**The Town of Monroe nets \$1 million annually from KJ taxes
OC to this day benefits from KJ Sewer Plant's excess capacity
DEC and the County consider KJ a smart growth community
KJ is one of few OC municipalities that added sewer capacity
KJ is one of few OC municipalities that added water sources
KJ's school district does not burden its neighbors
KJ does not burden federal or state governments for tuition
KJ's does not have a crime rate or a drug problem to speak of
KJ provides employment opportunities for many others**

In light of the following, how could a larger and even more vibrant KJ be anything other than a boon to the county overall? I am confident that when you will judge this annexation proposal strictly on the merits you will come to a conclusion that will benefit all county residents.

Sincerely,


Ari Felberman