

MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

To: Supervisor Harley Doles
Mayor Abraham Wieder

From: Mr. & Mrs. Mendel Oppenheim
Monroe, NY 10950

Date: June 21, 2015

Re: Annexation Petition

Our family is one of the many petitioners who have asked to become part of the Village of Kiryas Joel through a lawfully filed petition for annexation. As many of my neighbors have already voiced at the Public Hearing, our reason for this request is to become legally part of a community that we feel a kinship with - the home to much of our friends and family. It is crucial to us to be able to enjoy many of the amenities of Kiryas Joel including street lights, sidewalks, daily garbage pick-up, sewer hook up, transportation, public safety, a KinderPark and much more.

The annexation will also allow us to expand our community to meet the growing family needs for affordable housing. By providing clustered housing on smaller lots, we could better accommodate the needs of our large families.

One point is often lost in the annexation debate that must be stressed. No homeowners were forced to be included in the petition for annexation. Like my family, all petitioners seeking to join the Village of Kiryas Joel appreciate the culture and lifestyle of the Kiryas Joel community and wish to identify with their Hasidic neighbors. All of the properties in the petition are owned by Hasidic families and no other properties were included without the consent of the owner. This is significant because some have argued that the annexation is a "land grab" or an attempt to build on other peoples land. Nothing could be further from the truth.

We therefore urge the Town and Village Boards to support our petition for annexation.

Respectfully,

Mr. Mendel Oppenheim

Mrs. Ruth Oppenheim