

1 PUBLIC HEARING

2 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Good evening,  
3 ladies and gentlemen. My name is Harley  
4 Doles, I'm the Supervisor for the Town of  
5 Monroe.

6 Before we begin, if we would all rise  
7 for the Pledge of Allegiance. And please  
8 remain standing for silence -- for a moment  
9 of silence for our brave men and women in the  
10 Service.

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

11 THE PUBLIC: For all.

12 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Those are  
13 marvelous words, and I think we all agree,  
14 with liberty and justice for all.

15 We're here this evening representing,  
16 in the Town of Monroe, approximately 50,000  
17 people. We are the smallest municipality in  
18 Orange County. We're also the greatest  
19 municipality in Orange County. Despite some  
20 of the differences, at the end of the day, at  
21 the end of this examination of the DGIS and  
22 everything else, we will come out of it  
23 stronger and better for it. That much I  
24 know.  
25

PUBLIC HEARING

DRAFT GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

TOWN OF MONROE/VILLAGE OF KIRYAS JOEL

507-ACRE ANNEXATION PETITION

AND

164-ACRE ANNEXATION PETITION

June 10, 2015  
7:10 P.m.  
5 Israel Zupnick Drive  
Monroe, New York 10950

HARLEY DOLES, Moderator  
FREDERICK WELLS, RIA, Tim Miller Associates  
STEVEN BARSHOV, ESQ., Attorney for the Petitioners

MICHELLE L. CONERO  
Court Reporter

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2 begin. Ladies and gentlemen, I will keep it  
3 brief because we have a lot of speakers here and  
4 we have a lot of work to do.

5 Good evening. I'm Harley Doles, the  
6 Supervisor of the Town of Monroe. I sit here  
7 tonight along with the Members of the Town Board  
8 and with the Members of the Village Board for the  
9 Village of Kiryas Joel. We meet jointly, as  
10 required by law, to consider two annexation  
11 petitions that have been filed with both Boards.

12 I now call on Fred Wells of Tim Miller  
13 Associates to moderate the meeting.

14 Mr. Wells.

15 MR. WELLS: Thank you, Supervisor Doles.  
16 Tim Miller Associates has been hired by  
17 the Village to prepare the Environmental Impact  
18 Statement for this action. Tonight I'll be  
19 moderating the meeting.

20 I welcome everyone to tonight's public  
21 hearing. This is a public hearing on the Draft  
22 Generic Environmental Impact Statement, or DGEIS,  
23 and a public hearing on two annexation petitions  
24 which have been presented to the Village of  
25 Kiryas Joel and Town of Monroe. This hearing is

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2 There are certain procedures that we  
3 have to follow. One of them is to adopt a  
4 Chair for this evening. I believe the Boards  
5 have agreed that I would be Chair, but we  
6 need to formalize that in the form of a  
7 motion.

8 THE PUBLIC: We can't hear you. Speak  
9 in the mic.

10 BOARD MEMBER: Testing, testing. Now  
11 you're in for it. Good evening, folks. For  
12 tonight we need a presiding officer, so I'm  
13 going to make a motion that we select Harley  
14 Doles, our Town Supervisor, to be the  
15 presiding officer for tonight. And I'll need  
16 a second.

17 BOARD MEMBER: All right, I'll second.

18 SUPERVISOR DOLES: All those in favor?  
19 (All Members votes aye.)

20 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Any opposed?

21 THE PUBLIC: Yes.

22 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Any voting Members  
23 opposed?

24 (No response.)

25 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Okay. So let us

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 2 a step in the environmental review process that  
 3 is provided for under the New York State  
 4 Environmental Quality Review Act, often referred  
 5 to as SEQRA. This hearing is also being  
 6 conducted pursuant to New York State General  
 7 Municipal Law which applies to annexation  
 8 actions.

9 As a brief background for tonight, a  
 10 petition has been filed with the Town of Monroe  
 11 and the Village of Kiryas Joel to annex  
 12 approximately 507 acres of land presently in the  
 13 Town of Monroe to the Village. This petition was  
 14 filed pursuant to New York State General  
 15 Municipal Law in December of 2013. Additionally,  
 16 a petition was filed in August 2014 with the Town  
 17 and the Village to annex approximately 164 acres  
 18 from the Town to the Village as an alternative to  
 19 the 507-acre annexation. The smaller annexation  
 20 territory is included wholly within the 507  
 21 acres. There are maps posted in the back of the  
 22 room, two maps, that show those two different  
 23 territories in color.

24 The DGEIS has been prepared which  
 25 considers potential impacts of both actions and

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 2 has been circulated to the public for review.  
 3 The notice of completion of the DGIS and notice  
 4 to publicize the SEQRA hearing and the DGIS were  
 5 duly distributed and published pursuant to the  
 6 Environmental Conservation Law. Additionally,  
 7 notices to publicize the annexation hearing were  
 8 duly mailed and published pursuant to the General  
 9 Municipal Law, and affidavits of service were  
 10 filed with the village clerk.

11 The EIS is called generic because the  
 12 proposed action does not include any decision on  
 13 site specific development proposals for the  
 14 approval of the proposed 507-acre annexation or  
 15 alternatively the 164-acre annexation. The  
 16 Village of Kiryas Joel Trustees and the Town of  
 17 Monroe Town Board are the only decision making  
 18 bodies. The Village has been designated to be  
 19 lead agency for this review.

20 Tonight the Village and Town officials are  
 21 here to receive public comments on these proposed  
 22 actions and on the potential impacts that were  
 23 evaluated in the DGEIS. As provided by SEQRA,  
 24 the public comment period will include this  
 25 hearing, and following the close of the hearing

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2 there will be a period for receipt of written  
3 comments through June 22nd. The purpose of this  
4 meeting is to receive your comments. After the  
5 comment period, the lead agency will be  
6 responsible for preparing a Final GEIS which will  
7 contain all of the comments received and written  
8 responses to those comments. That Final GEIS  
9 will be circulated and made available for public  
10 review through the website established for this  
11 purpose. No decision on the annexation petitions  
12 can be made by the Village or Town officials  
13 until this SEQRA review process is completed.  
14 All documents produced in connection with the  
15 environmental review of the annexation petitions,  
16 including all public comments received, are or  
17 will be posted online at  
18 [www.kj-seqra.com/507acres](http://www.kj-seqra.com/507acres).

19 The Village understands and appreciates  
20 the community's interest in the proposed  
21 annexation and seeks your input. To facilitate  
22 an orderly hearing, there are sign-up sheets at  
23 the back of the room for anyone wishing to make a  
24 comment on the DGIS or annexation petitions. If  
25 you wish to speak, please be sure to get your

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2 name on one of the lists.  
3 I'll first invite a representative of the  
4 petitioners to make a short presentation.

5 Mr. Barshov.

6 MR. BARSHOV: Can you hear me now? Okay.  
7 Good evening, everybody. It's a pleasure to be  
8 here tonight. I represent the applicants, the  
9 petitioners for annexation, and I'm here to do  
10 one thing and one thing only, and that is to lay  
11 out the affirmative case for why this annexation  
12 is in the overall public interest, and I'm going  
13 to go through the factors that are involved in  
14 that discussion and give this information to the  
15 decision makers so that they can have this as  
16 part of the record. The decision makers of  
17 course are the two Boards, and they need to hear  
18 the substance of why this annexation makes sense  
19 and why it's in the overall public interest.

20 Fact number one: Kiryas Joel's population  
21 is going to grow. No one in this room can stop  
22 it because people have children, and they're  
23 going to have a lot of children because for the  
24 last forty years they've been having children.  
25 My client, Mr. Geib, his grandfather came here in

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2 the 1970s. Many of the people that you see in  
 3 Kiryas Joel have families that have been here for  
 4 three generations. That is not going to change.  
 5 The question is where are these people going to  
 6 go? Where are they going to live? Most of the  
 7 Village's land is occupied and there's very  
 8 little land left for development. Some of the  
 9 land that is available for development has  
 10 wetlands and steep slopes and would be unlawful  
 11 to develop. Some of it is occupied by Yeshivas  
 12 and is also not available for development.  
 13 There's one large parcel of land that the  
 14 property owner who does own it has not expressed  
 15 any interest in developing. So where are the  
 16 people to go? Would you prefer that they be  
 17 spread all around Orange County, which is --

18 THE PUBLIC: Yes. Yes. Yes.  
 19 (Applause.)

20 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Ladies and gentlemen.  
 21 Ladies and gentlemen, I'm going to ask you please  
 22 to let the speakers --

23 MR. BARSHOV: I'm going to do one thing --  
 24 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Excuse me. Let me  
 25 finish.

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2 MR. BARSHOV: Please. I didn't hear you  
 3 speak.  
 4 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Please extend the  
 5 courtesy to each speaker. You will have your  
 6 chance to be able to speak and be heard. Thank  
 7 you.

8 Continue, sir.

9 THE PUBLIC: He asked a question.

10 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Excuse me. Again,  
 11 we're going to ask -- I'm going to ask as the  
 12 Chair for this meeting to please temper the tone  
 13 so we can at least move through this DGEIS in a  
 14 manner which is not only civil but as prescribed  
 15 by law. So please give each of the speakers time  
 16 to speak, time to be heard. You will have the  
 17 opportunity to be heard yourself. Thank you.

18 Go ahead.

19 MR. BARSHOV: Thank you for the answer.  
 20 It was the answer I expected to hear. Here's why  
 21 it makes no sense.

22 When you turn around and you talk about  
 23 development, you look at what is called smart  
 24 growth. Smart growth is transitory into  
 25 development. It's development that grows

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2 organically from an existing community. Where  
 3 does that growth occur in terms of KJ? It occurs  
 4 in the bordering properties that surround it. It  
 5 does not occur sprinkled all through Orange  
 6 County. It may appeal to whatever position it is  
 7 that people who oppose annexation wish to  
 8 advocate, but in terms of public policy, in terms  
 9 of what makes sense for community development and  
 10 growth, it makes absolutely no sense. No plan  
 11 that I am aware of, none that I've seen,  
 12 including the plan that is applicable to Orange  
 13 County, calls for unsmart growth. It all calls  
 14 for smart growth.

15 How is the annexation promoting smart  
 16 growth? One, this community has patterns of  
 17 development including sidewalks and a transit  
 18 system. How do those sidewalks and transit  
 19 systems get extended? By gradually organically  
 20 growing the community in the bordering  
 21 properties. That's how communities grow and make  
 22 sense to grow.

23 What else makes sense about a community  
 24 like Kiryas Joel growing? It has a water supply  
 25 system that has been in the works for some time,

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2 tapping into an aqueduct. It makes sense for the  
 3 properties that are developed to be utilizing  
 4 that aqueduct system. Why? Because it preserves  
 5 the groundwater for the rest of the Town of  
 6 Monroe. It makes complete sense to do this this  
 7 way.

8 The other points that are made --

9 THE PUBLIC: Thank you.

10 MR. BARSHOV: The other points that are to  
 11 be made. There's the police services, EMT  
 12 services, all of which are more efficiently  
 13 provided from the Village growing outward than  
 14 sprinkled throughout the Town. There are  
 15 multiple services that are associated with an  
 16 annexation application. Every single one of  
 17 them, when you go down the line, and they're  
 18 analyzing the EIS extensibly, are either neutral  
 19 or in favor of this annexation application.

20 There is no data, there is no information that is  
 21 against the annexation. I'll tell you what the  
 22 data points to. What the data and the arguments  
 23 point to are that people don't want this  
 24 community to grow, and it is growing.  
 25 (Applause.)

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2 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Gentlemen, if the  
 3 public could keep it's applause down until after  
 4 the speakers, please. This way we set a policy.  
 5 It probably will be a long evening for everyone  
 6 here in the entire room. Please wait until the  
 7 speaker is done and then -- please, then you can  
 8 applause -- applaud or not. Thank you.

9 MR. BARSHOV: Now, there's a requirement  
 10 in the decisional law that speaks to something  
 11 called unity of purpose. Unity of purpose is one  
 12 of the elements that is required to be considered  
 13 for purposes of annexation. It was the zoning  
 14 Board of Appeals of the Town of Monroe that  
 15 perhaps spoke best to the unity of purpose in  
 16 denying a variance request relating to 37 of the  
 17 177 parcels proposed for annexation. It  
 18 described that land as follows: It really has no  
 19 relationship with the territory of the Town. It  
 20 is far removed from the center function of the  
 21 Town and far more related to the Village. Indeed  
 22 these lands that are on the other side of 17 are  
 23 principally related to the Village, and by  
 24 annexing these territories the Village grows in a  
 25 smart way with creation of unity of purpose.

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2 What does unity of purpose specifically mean? It  
 3 means that there's an integration between the  
 4 lands that are annexed and the community into  
 5 which they are annexed. That integration occurs  
 6 physically by extension of streets and sidewalks.  
 7 It occurs functionally in terms of extension of a  
 8 transportation system. It occurs spiritually and  
 9 religiously by the unification of these  
 10 communities where there's common interests  
 11 involved. It even occurs linguistically because  
 12 the predominantly Yiddish population that will  
 13 move into these areas will be served by a  
 14 government that provides it's services in both  
 15 Yiddish and English. It also provides  
 16 environmental protection. It is smart growth  
 17 because it is not sprawl.

18 The people that live in Kiryas Joel, I'm  
 19 sure many of you know this, many of them commute  
 20 to New York City via Monroe Bus Company. Monroe  
 21 Bus Company saves thousands of trips into New  
 22 York City by car, by operating buses that are  
 23 utilized by many of the people in KJ who work in  
 24 the city. That bus company will be able to  
 25 expand it's operations and transport more people

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2 efficiently instead of having yet more car trips,  
 3 even in and around the county, in and around the  
 4 town or going to and from New York City. Montroie  
 5 Bus Company will also be able to put in a  
 6 facility to repair it's vehicles and not have to  
 7 have them brought down to New York City for that  
 8 purpose as well.

9 The Town does not have a police  
 10 department. The Village does. This is another  
 11 example of the type of service that is provided  
 12 more efficiently by annexation than by spreading  
 13 community all -- by spreading development all  
 14 around town.

15 The last point that I want to make is  
 16 perhaps one that you may be surprised to hear.  
 17 Nobody in this room really knows me. Nobody has  
 18 really taken the time to talk to me. Let me tell  
 19 you a little bit just about me. I practiced law  
 20 for eight years in New Mexico. That's where I  
 21 started to practice law. I saw annexation  
 22 hearings and incorporation hearings and I  
 23 litigated annexation and incorporation cases  
 24 there. The issues that you face are not that  
 25 unique to this area. You may think they are but

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2 they are not. Questions of growth, questions of  
 3 annexation, questions of incorporation have  
 4 occurred in this country since it's founding.  
 5 How many of you know that the City of greater New  
 6 York was the greatest consolidation of an urban  
 7 area in the United States, taking entire counties  
 8 and bringing them together? Why? In order to  
 9 have an orderly way of growing. In order to make  
 10 that city function better. Annexation is here to  
 11 provide a method by which communities grow  
 12 intelligently. They are going to grow. And this  
 13 community is going to grow. And the question  
 14 really before these Boards is what is the  
 15 intelligent way to have that growth occur.

16 I'm interested in hearing tonight, as I  
 17 asked people when I was practicing in New Mexico,  
 18 don't tell me what you are opposed to. You tell  
 19 me what you are in favor of and then I will know  
 20 how to respect your opinion. You tell me where  
 21 you want those people to go, you tell me why you  
 22 want them to go there, and then we can judge the  
 23 merits of this annexation. It's the low hanging  
 24 fruit to turn around and say no, no, no, I'm  
 25 against this, I'm against this and against that .



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2 You tell me what you're in favor of. You tell me  
3 where you want these people to go, what the  
4 pattern of development will be, and then these  
5 people can make an intelligent decision.

6 Thank you very much.

7 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Mr. Wells.

8 MR. WELLS: Thank you, Mr. Barshov.

9 I'd like to ask that all the petitioners  
10 who live in the annexation territory that are  
11 here tonight to please stand briefly.

12 Thank you.

13 We, that is the Village Trustees, Town  
14 Councilmen and the Village Consultants, are here  
15 to listen. We do not anticipate answering  
16 questions on specific concerns or responding to  
17 comments. Rather the purpose of this meeting is  
18 to receive your comments and questions. A

19 Stenographer is present to record the comments  
20 that are made at the microphone so we will have a  
21 complete record of tonight's proceeding from

22 which appropriate responses can be made for the  
23 Final GEIS as well as from the written comments  
24 received. Everyone who wishes to speak will be  
25 given three minutes. Please respect the time so

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2 that all who wish to speak will be heard. Please  
3 keep your comments until the end of the speaker  
4 in order to allow the speaker to say their peace.

5 I ask everyone be respectful in their comments  
6 and minimize comments or applause. If you have  
7 written comments to submit, there's no need to

8 read your comments top to bottom, they'll all be  
9 made part of the record. You may hand written  
10 comments to me tonight before you leave. When  
11 you come up to the microphone, please state your  
12 name and address prior to making your comments.

13 If somebody has already offered a comment on  
14 something you intended to speak about, please  
15 indicate that when you come to the microphone.  
16 There's no need to repeat comments already made.

17 I'll be calling names from the speakers from the  
18 sign-up sheets. There are seats up here in the  
19 front row which people can come up and sit prior  
20 to going to the microphone.

21 The first four speakers are Mr. Steven  
22 Neuhaus, Sonia Mason, Beile Pessy and Chaya  
23 Weider.

24 Mr. Neuhaus.

25 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Ladies and gentlemen,

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2 Just for the public's information, we are pleased  
3 and we are very proud to have our County  
4 Executive, Steve Neuhaus here. I know Mr.  
5 Neuhaus for many years. He's served as the  
6 supervisor for Chester. He himself knows how  
7 painful an annexation is.

8 As supervisor for Chester, between the  
9 Town of Chester and the Village of Chester, you  
10 went through a lot. You, perhaps more than most  
11 people in this room, are familiar with that type  
12 of process, and I thank you.

13 MR. NEUHAUS: Thank you, Mr. Supervisor,  
14 Mayor and Members of the Board, Members of the  
15 Public. It's not really normal for the County  
16 Executive to be at local meetings like this but I  
17 will tell you a few months ago I held a public  
18 forum at the Chester Elementary School, it was  
19 standing room only, and I held it because the  
20 meeting that was held here during the winter  
21 didn't afford the public to be able to come to  
22 the meeting. As a former supervisor and a  
23 councilman I had a lot of meetings I didn't want  
24 to go to and I had a lot of things I didn't want  
25 to hear, but you have to do it. That's our job

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2 as elected officials. No matter what the message  
3 is, we need to hear from the people and we need  
4 to accommodate them. So that has mobilized and  
5 galvanized what you see behind me today.  
6 Supervisors and mayors from all over Orange  
7 County, from Crawford to Deer Park and everywhere  
8 in between, have supported what the County  
9 started, and that was to run a parallel SEQRA  
10 process.

11 At the end of the day when you talk about  
12 an annexation, the decision is really one, is  
13 this in the overall best interest of the public.  
14 Is this in the overall best interest of the  
15 public. We started that study a few weeks ago  
16 and we have some preliminary results. Those  
17 preliminary results, I'm going to say about  
18 twelve of them today and then I'm going to  
19 utilize the next week-and-a-half up until the  
20 June 22nd deadline to submit comments in writing  
21 on behalf of the County. But that initial  
22 question, is this in the best interest of the  
23 public, I will tell you my friends it's no.

(Applause.)

MR. NEUHAUS: Ordinarily I wouldn't mind

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2 applause but I've got a certain amount of time to  
3 get up here. I don't want to get rushed out of  
4 here. I appreciate the support but let's talk  
5 about the twelve initial concerns that are  
6 independent, which republican/democratic  
7 legislators hired identified these twelve  
8 concerns.

9 Number one, errors and inconsistencies of  
10 the descriptions of the annexation territory.

11 Number two, concerns that the petition may  
12 impact County parklands. There's a park that's  
13 involved in this. DGEIS 3.7.5

14 Number three, anticipated growth. We have  
15 concerns about the data that was from -- that was  
16 submitted, concerns of what our consultant came  
17 up with.

18 Number four, Social Service costs.

19 Number five, impact on early intervention  
20 and school district costs. DGEIS 3.3.10

21 Number six, impact on the public health  
22 monitoring. DGEIS 3.3.9

23 Number seven, impact on emergency services  
24 and the loss of the tax base to the fire district  
25 that presently covers the area that's being  
DGEIS 3.3.8

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2 annexed or considered to be annexed.

3 Number eight, the flawed nature of the  
4 traffic study. DGEIS 3.4.8

5 Number nine, inconsistent use of varying  
6 demographic measurements of methodologies. DGEIS 3.2.10

7 Number ten, the unnecessarily limited  
8 population projection timeframe utilized by the  
9 DGEIS. DGEIS 3.2.10

10 Number eleven, errors in the wetland  
11 impacts. DGEIS 3.6.4

12 And number twelve, wastewater impacts and  
13 impacts on the Ramapo River itself. DGEIS 3.5.8

14 I would tell you I'm not just a County  
15 Executive that works in Goshen every day. I grew  
16 up in Monroe. My family still lives here. I  
17 went to Monroe-Woodbury High School. I was a  
18 volunteer firefighter. I believe and love this  
19 County. What has happened today has really  
20 galvanized everywhere else in the County and has  
21 really put us at odds with each other. There's  
22 been no talk about any sitting down, about what  
23 the true impacts of this are. I'm going to make  
24 sure that the County, along with the elected  
25 officials, Republican and Democrat, outline it to

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2 you.

3 I will say two quick things before I

4 finish, and I appreciate the extra time. I'm

5 sure I went over.

6 Number one is that we have all the

7 detailed comments online on the County website

8 now. I told them to launch it at 7 tonight.

9 Number two, the question again before you

10 is is this in the overall best interest of the

11 public. And I hope you vote no. Thank you.

12 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you, County

13 Executive.

14 Mr. Wells, our next speaker is.

15 MR. WELLS: Our next speaker is Sonia

16 Mason.

17 MS. MASON: Good evening. Thank you for

18 this opportunity to speak. I represent the New

19 York/New Jersey Trail Conference. We are

20 custodians of two regional trails that traverse

21 the proposed annexation and we are gravely

22 concerned with the environmental and cultural

23 impact on these trails. They're not small

24 inconsequential trails but popular multi-state

25 greenways connecting the areas of preserves and

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2 state parks. Both of them were featured in the

3 New York State Open Space Plan. The Long Park is

4 365 miles starting from the GW Bridge all the way

5 into Schocharie County, and the Highlands Trail

6 is 150 mile long route from Pennsylvania through

7 to Connecticut. These two trails share a park

8 along Seven Springs Road which if it were to be

9 developed would lose it's rural nature and

10 character and become more urbanized. It would

11 become a very much less pleasant piace to walk

12 and even a little hostile to hike. We don't

13 correspond to any particular dress code.

14 We do not believe that the claim of future

15 development of this land is inevitable. We would

16 prefer to see this parcel preserved in fact as a

17 green corridor. It's an important link between

18 Goose Pond Mountain and Schunemunk, not only for

19 recreational purposes and public access but for

20 wildlife migration.

21 We in fact have no other place to put

22 these two trails. So we are really concerned

23 about doing something about keeping the land

24 rural and not developed.

25 Additionally, it is not true that this

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2 development is most sustainable and has a lower  
3 impact on it's surroundings, as claimed in the  
4 DEIS, if it involves severely altering natural  
5 space. This development is better suited to be  
6 using vacant lots in urban areas rather than  
7 spoiling rural ones and creating a heavy user  
8 impact on it's water and waste treatment.

9 Apologies, I'm a little nervous. We do believe  
10 that this would be reversed from rural  
11 residential to more denser building once the  
12 annexation is affected.

13 Another thing we're concerned about is  
14 that although the DEIS states that the annexation  
15 will not remove or hinder public access to the  
16 parkland from Seven Springs Road or Mountain  
17 Road, we think it's a reasonable concern and the  
18 dress code of the community occupying the current  
19 Village would result in harassment for particular  
20 hikers walking on public roads, and we do not  
21 want this to happen at any cost.

22 As an ecologist I have to respond to the  
23 claim of smart growth. It is inevitable in many,  
24 many studies that unfortunately the explosive  
25 population growth is not -- DGEIS 3715

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2 MR. WELLS: Ms. Mason, please wrap up your  
3 comments.

4 MS. MASON: Okay. We need to remember  
5 that we share a limited planet and fast  
6 population growth inevitably will result in  
7 conflict over resources and space to live. Thank  
8 you.

9 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Beile  
10 Pessy, followed by Chaya Weider.

11 MS. PESSY: Good evening. My name is  
12 Beile Pessy. Good evening. My name is Beile  
13 Pessy and this is my twin sister. I thank God  
14 every day that I was born with a twin sister,  
15 because if not I would be in total isolation. I  
16 want to ask whoever has the power if they could  
17 help us and our friends in the same situation.  
18 Not to mention I already worry about my children  
19 eventually shouldn't have to suffer the  
20 difficulty I endure. Children my age like to  
21 grow up with friends, the park, after school  
22 programs, be part of the community they know and  
23 love.

24 We are handicap. We can not possibly do  
25 what children our age are doing. The reason is

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2 because our streets are not safe. The streets  
 3 are dark, actually very dark. My parents put a  
 4 light on our house but there are no lights beyond  
 5 that. There are wild animals, there are cars  
 6 going by and there may be dangerous people, too.  
 7 The sad thing is that during daylight our streets  
 8 are unsafe too. Our streets look like an old  
 9 fashioned road that was created by horses and  
 10 buggies passing by. It is so twisted and curved  
 11 that it is impossible for cars to stay in their  
 12 lane. It is also so narrow that if two school  
 13 buses have to pass each other they must both be  
 14 extra careful. I can not possibly understand.  
 15 It is 2015. In all these years why does our  
 16 local government not care about the citizens to  
 17 provide us with safe sidewalks, safe streets and  
 18 safe street lights? We can not go out during the  
 19 day, during the night, and most importantly  
 20 during Jewish holidays. We also feel very  
 21 insecure on these special days. We all wish that  
 22 the KJ public safety patrol would circle our  
 23 area. We feel it's odd. We are the ones who  
 24 feel unsafe. They are not here for us. Our  
 25 parents do not even let us go down the block.

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2 There are girls our ages sitting home alone  
 3 because of the same reason, they don't feel that  
 4 the streets are safe for us even when they walk  
 5 with us. Our streets are so unsafe in the  
 6 evening my father would drive us to walk around  
 7 the lake in town so we get some healthy exercise  
 8 done. We are now afraid to go there too. Last  
 9 summer a few times cars scream at us. They love  
 10 to see us get scared. One car stopped and yelled  
 11 loudly go to your own park. Don't you know we  
 12 don't have our own park? We still struggle with  
 13 the issues of the olden days.

14 Unfortunately our outfits got ruined  
 15 during washing because we have dirty well water.  
 16 My friends all wish for safe, clean water so they  
 17 can drink it too. We rely on bottled water only.  
 18 We also always have to worry about septic  
 19 issues. It feels so old fashioned not to have  
 20 sewer. Once again, I want to beg please for the  
 21 sake of us young children, I urge you to please  
 22 vote yes to annexing the 507 acres into the  
 23 Village of Kiryas Joel. Thank you.

24 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Ms. Chaya  
 25 Weider, followed by Herman Wagschal.

DGEIS  
 Pg. 2-11 to  
 2-13

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2 MS. WELDER: Good evening. My name is  
 3 Chaya Weider, a resident of Seven Springs Road in  
 4 the Town of Monroe. I'm one of the applicants of  
 5 the 507-acre annexation application, and I thank  
 6 you all for the opportunity to listen to our  
 7 concerns. I'll try to quickly explain why I feel  
 8 all applicants are so desperate to be annexed to  
 9 the Village of Kiryas Joel where we know that we  
 10 can and we will get the services we so  
 11 desperately need.

12 My husband and I are hard working people.  
 13 We are blessed with four children and we both  
 14 work hard to support and raise them while holding  
 15 a job to provide for their needs. We pay one of  
 16 the highest rates of school tax in New York  
 17 State. We pay county and town tax on our  
 18 property. Obviously we pay utility tax, sewer  
 19 tax, sales tax, we pay Social Security tax and,  
 20 yes, contrary to popular belief and what we've  
 21 been accused of, we do pay income taxes, too.  
 22 Every parent wants to raise their children to  
 23 belong in the community that they are raised.  
 24 Our community grows by choice. We will continue  
 25 to grow and expand. I hope to be able to build

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2 additional apartments on my vacant land so that  
 3 my four children can stay living next to us. We  
 4 want to enjoy the next generation and see them  
 5 grow up. We need to stay in this area so that we  
 6 can have access to the school system of our  
 7 choice, to the shopping center, the medical  
 8 center and to the new park on our road. In order  
 9 to stay on our properties we need to have decent  
 10 zoning and decent living conditions. We can not  
 11 continue struggling with well and septic. We  
 12 need plain and safe drinking water and sewer. We  
 13 need safe roads. Seven Springs Road where we  
 14 live is one of the most dangerous roads in Orange  
 15 County. We need a government that will improve  
 16 pedestrian safety in our neighborhood. In  
 17 addition to being an unsafe road, there are no  
 18 street lights and no sidewalks to speak of. I  
 19 can not allow my children to go to the next door  
 20 neighbor alone, not in daylight and definitely  
 21 not in the dark.

22 I'm confident that under the leadership of  
 23 Kiryas Joel Village these issues can and will be  
 24 improved. Our children need to be safe. We  
 25 shouldn't need them but we need the reassurance

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2 that if we do need them we have access to the KJ  
3 EMS, KJ fire department and KJ public safety.  
4 By choice, women and teens don't drive.  
5 We need to have access to the KJ public  
6 transportation, which, as a matter of fact,  
7 boosts the outside economy by also transporting  
8 us to the shopping areas outside of KJ, in  
9 addition to the vital transportation system it  
10 provides for the community. It's the only way to  
11 safely transport the kids to school and other  
12 community destinations. We're part of the <sup>DAEIS</sup>  
13 community and we need to stay part of a <sup>Page 2-11</sup>  
14 community. It's totally unfair to us, our <sup>2-13</sup>  
15 children and our future generations to be cut off  
16 from very important services because a few people  
17 who stand --

18 THE PUBLIC: Time is up. Time is up.  
19 MS. WEIDER: -- nothing to lose from  
20 annexation.  
21 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Ms. Weider, your time  
22 is up.  
23 MS. WEIDER: -- out of pure hatred. I  
24 hope the time has finally come when all elected  
25 officials across the board will stand up and

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2 continue doing what's right for us.  
3 SUPERVISOR DOLES: The time is up, please.  
4 MS. WEIDER: There is others that went  
5 over.  
6 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Mr. Wells, if you'd  
7 give me a moment. If you would kindly, thirty  
8 seconds prior to the three minutes, if you could  
9 just give the notice.  
10 MR. WAGSCHAL: I would appreciate, before  
11 I start speaking my speech, to express my opinion  
12 that we should all have the same right. People  
13 before went over their time and they were not  
14 booed. Why are we booed if we go a half a minute  
15 over?  
16 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Mr. Wagschal, I advise  
17 you -- Mr. Wagschal --  
18 MR. WAGSCHAL: Yes.  
19 SUPERVISOR DOLES: -- look and listen to  
20 me very carefully. I would advise you and anyone  
21 here this evening to temper your anger. Do not  
22 dare to address it to this Board or else I will  
23 have you ejected. Do you understand, sir?  
24 MR. WAGSCHAL: Yes, sir. Good evening.  
25 My name is Herman Wagschal. I'm a father of



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2 eleven and grandfather of many more. I'm also a  
3 rabbi of a congregation of approximately  
4 twenty-five families who are all annexation  
5 applicants. I respectfully thank all officials  
6 who are here tonight. We all -- with all due  
7 respect to officials, the Town of Monroe has not,  
8 can not and will not accommodate the needs of us  
9 residents in the annexation application area.

10 I am son of an Auschwitz survivor. He  
11 killed six million of us but he has not  
12 successful to finish his plan. And here we are  
13 tonight as legal citizens of the United States of  
14 America, and we are allowed to rebuild our loss.

15 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Mr. Wagschal, please,  
16 I'm going to interrupt you for two reasons. One,  
17 because of the public. Please let Mr. Wagschal  
18 finish. And Mr. Wagschal, we can hear you. I  
19 understand -- I understand the passion and the  
20 concerns that you have, but please, if you can  
21 temper your voice when you're addressing this  
22 Board, I ask you.

23 MR. WAGSCHAL: Thank you. Our government  
24 allows us to freely have as many children as we  
25 choose. The government gives us protection under

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2 freedom of religion. Therefore, despite all you  
3 will hear tonight from people who will exercise  
4 their right of freedom of speech to openly  
5 express their hatred, I hope that the elected  
6 officials will be responsible enough to look  
7 beyond the vote of that group. And I rephrase,  
8 that minority group, even though they are well  
9 organized to make it sound like if they are  
10 expressing the view of the silent majority, and  
11 help us get the service that we are entitled to  
12 by law.

13 It is clear that special accommodations  
14 have been made in Monroe to benefit a handful of  
15 people without regard to the safety of others.  
16 As of a good example, for long years most traffic  
17 coming off Route 17 and exit 130 to the Village  
18 of Kiryas Joel was coming through Schunnumunk  
19 Street. Then all of a sudden Schunnumunk Street  
20 was restricted to eleven ton, which in fact  
21 diverted all tractor trailers and tandems to  
22 County Route 44, Seven Springs in Monroe. Let's  
23 look at this. Instead of driving approximately a  
24 half a mile on fairly straight streets with a  
25 population of approximately one dozen houses,

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 2 they now have to divert and drive four miles,  
 3 which fifty percent of it is very sloped,  
 4 dangerously curbed with about fifty houses. Many  
 5 people are at increased risk due to this  
 6 negligent move.

7 MR. WELLS: Mr. Wagschal, twenty seconds.  
 8 MR. WAGSCHAL: Did anyone make a study  
 9 before they allowed this to happen in order to  
 10 accommodate about one dozen families? Our people  
 11 are here to stay. We are entitled and will  
 12 continue to multiply and grow. We need our  
 13 community services. We need schools, we need  
 14 more schools. We need housing for seniors,  
 15 children and grandchildren.

16 MR. WELLS: Mr. Wagschal, please wrap it  
 17 up.  
 18 MR. WAGSCHAL: And we need to live under  
 19 decent conditions and provide services that the  
 20 Village of Kiryas Joel can and will provide to  
 21 us.

22 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you, Mr.  
 23 Wagschal. Your time is up. Thank you, sir.

24 MR. WAGSCHAL: I would appreciate again if  
 25 I would have the same privilege as --

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 2 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Mr. Wagschal, I  
 3 appreciate your enthusiasm but we have rules  
 4 here, and all of us will abide by the rules. I  
 5 thank you for your time and for your  
 6 consideration.

7 The next speaker.  
 8 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Abraham  
 9 Flohr, and then David Goldberger, followed by  
 10 Rabbi David Zwibel. Abraham Flohr? Is he  
 11 present?

12 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Is Mr. Flohr here?  
 13 We'll ask once and once only.  
 14 (No response.)

15 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Next speaker, please.  
 16 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is David  
 17 Goldberger, followed by Rabbi David Zwibel.

18 MR. GOLDBERGER: Good evening. My name is  
 19 David Goldberger. I must admit tonight, I  
 20 brought a house in the '70s in the Town of  
 21 Monroe. That was my biggest mistake. The main  
 22 reason I petition to annex my property to the  
 23 Village of Kiryas Joel is to get access to the  
 24 local government services provided by the  
 25 Village. First and foremost, I'm thinking of

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 2 emergency services. The Town of Monroe  
 3 government only speaks English. Many of my  
 4 family members are most comfortable speaking in  
 5 Yiddish. This can make a big difference in  
 6 emergency situations. In an emergency people may  
 7 be disoriented or in shock, and ability to use  
 8 the language they know best might end up saving a  
 9 life. It also matters a lot that the  
 10 headquarters of the KJ public safety, EMS and  
 11 fire departments are next to the area proposed  
 12 for annexation. They would simply be able to  
 13 respond faster to calls there. The Town of  
 14 Monroe doesn't even have it's own police  
 15 department. How can anyone argue that we get the  
 16 same level of service by staying in the Town of  
 17 Monroe? There are big improvements with  
 18 emergency services speed and quality in care  
 19 between KJ, and in an emergency a small  
 20 difference matters. *DGEIS Pg. 2-11 to 2-13*

21 Secondly, it's also about uniting to the  
 22 life of a community in KJ which is currently  
 23 separated by an arbitrary political line. Myself  
 24 and other petitioners can see ourselves in fact  
 25 members of the KJ community, but we are cut off

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 2 from access to many benefits of services because  
 3 we are politically separated from the KJ  
 4 community. To name just one example, there's the  
 5 wonderful Kinder Park in KJ where all the  
 6 families that reside in KJ bring their children  
 7 to play in the beautiful playground. This is an  
 8 amenity for residents. If you become KJ  
 9 residents by annexing to KJ you would also have  
 10 access to many other recreational and social  
 11 opportunities. These are so important to  
 12 sustaining community life. The annexation will  
 13 make improvements in transportation, to issues  
 14 such as sidewalks, street lights, buses, and  
 15 these things mean a lot for safety and other  
 16 reasons. But really just for support and  
 17 structure for the KJ community life which is  
 18 perhaps even more important. That annexation is  
 19 really about self-determination, the ability to  
 20 live our lives in peace in the manner that we  
 21 choose. *DGEIS Pgs. 2-11 to 2-13*

22 MR. WELLS: Mr. Goldberger, thirty  
 23 seconds.  
 24 MR. GOLDBERGER: We all want to join KJ  
 25 because we want to live our lives in harmony with

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2 our community. This is not to attract others and  
3 others shouldn't think of it that way. The land  
4 proposed for annexation is not really connected  
5 to the rest of Monroe. It is separated by a  
6 highway. It is just KJ annexation in their own  
7 areas, and it makes sense that they should join  
8 together.

9 MR. WELLS: Mr. Goldberger, please wrap up  
10 your comments.

11 MR. GOLDBERGER: I would like to touch on  
12 one issue --

13 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Mr. Goldberger, your  
14 time is up. I thank you very much.

15 MR. GOLDBERGER: The biggest mistake I  
16 ever did, I bought the house in the Town of  
17 Monroe, not in KJ.

18 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you, Mr.  
19 Goldberger.

20 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Rabbi  
21 David Zwibel.

22 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Just one moment.  
23 Ladies and gentlemen, unless you're a member or a  
24 credentialized member of the press, the area here  
25 by the podium is reserved only for those. Thank

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2 you.

3 MR. ZWIBEL: Thank you so very much. It's  
4 my honor to be here today to speak before this  
5 distinguished Board. My name is David Zwibel, I  
6 am both a rabbi and an attorney. I am the  
7 executive vice president of a national Orthodox  
8 Jewish organization called of Agudath Israel of  
9 America. I'm honored to be here tonight and to  
10 offer a few words from a perspective, not as  
11 somebody who is a resident of the community as  
12 we've heard from some residents before and people  
13 who have grown up over here. I've never -- I've  
14 lived in New York City actually all my life. But  
15 as a director, as the executive vice president of  
16 the national Orthodox Jewish organization, the  
17 message I wanted to deliver here tonight, with  
18 your permission, is that there is a very broad  
19 interest beyond the local community in what's  
20 been going on over here in Kiryas Joel and with  
21 respect to this annexation.

22 MR. WELLS: Excuse me, sir. Please put  
23 the microphone closer. Thank you.

24 MR. ZWIBEL: My apologies. There is a  
25 very broad interest across the larger Jewish

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2 community about what has been taking place over  
 3 here, and with respect specifically to this  
 4 annexation petition. There are other things  
 5 going on not very far from here. We know about  
 6 what's happening in Bloomingburg. We know about  
 7 the court's ruling yesterday. We are deeply  
 8 concerned as we watch what's going on over here  
 9 when we see that there are laws that are being  
 10 proposed in Albany for the very first time,  
 11 unprecedented laws, which would change the way  
 12 things are done which are clearly directed at the  
 13 particular effort that's being discussed here  
 14 tonight. There are extraordinary steps that are  
 15 being taken at this time precisely because there  
 16 seems to be a great concern and fear about the  
 17 growth of the Hasidic Jewish population here.  
 18 With all due respect, from the -- again from the  
 19 perspective of the larger Orthodox Jewish  
 20 community that's observing what's going on over  
 21 here, that's something that raises deep, deep  
 22 concern to us. When there's an organic growth  
 23 that in some way is sought to be accommodated  
 24 through an annexation petition such as this one,  
 25 and where there is very fierce and, how shall I

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2 say, innovative, creative ways of being  
 3 approached to prevent that organic growth from  
 4 taking place, that's something that's deeply  
 5 troubling.  
 6 So as an observer from a distance but  
 7 nonetheless a very interested observer in what's  
 8 going on, my appeal to the good people of Monroe  
 9 and to this Board in particular is recognize that  
 10 what we're talking about over here has broad  
 11 ramifications. It's not limited specifically to  
 12 what's happening here on a local basis. The eyes  
 13 of the broader Jewish world certainly are upon  
 14 what's happening over here. And we're hopeful  
 15 that cool heads can prevail and can understand  
 16 that a community is entitled to grow and a  
 17 community is entitled to expand in accordance  
 18 with its religious traditions and its religious  
 19 beliefs. To find ways to improve intergroup  
 20 harmony, that's our pitch. That's what's so  
 21 important to us and that's what I think in part  
 22 is at stake at this annexation petition. Thank  
 23 you very, very much.

24 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Joel  
 25 Hirsch, followed by Robert Fromaget, followed by

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2 Daniel Richmond.

3 MR. HIRSCH: Good evening. My name is  
 4 Joel Hirsch, I live in the Village of Kiryas  
 5 Joel. I'm a proud father of seven wonderful  
 6 kids. Raising large families is in our religious  
 7 belief and it has been in our families tradition  
 8 for thousands of years. I grew up in Brooklyn in  
 9 a family of eleven. My wife grew up here in the  
 10 Village in a family of thirteen. This is how we  
 11 build our own family and raise our own kids to  
 12 follow in the tradition and footsteps of their  
 13 parents and fathers. There's one lone exception  
 14 to this. This is the family of my mother. My  
 15 mother, born in 1952, was raised in a family of  
 16 only four siblings. However, that was not by  
 17 choice. Her father raised his own family of six  
 18 children until that sad day when he was drafted  
 19 into the Hungarian Army, returning home four  
 20 years later to an empty house. His wife, his six  
 21 children were choked to death in the Auschwitz  
 22 gas chambers and their corpses burned to ashes in  
 23 the infamous crematoriums, among another six  
 24 million innocent Jews that were denied right to  
 25 live and were murdered by the Nazi regime and

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2 their allies. Why? Because their neighbors,  
 3 their governments and the allies of their  
 4 governments believed that there's no place for  
 5 them on earth. Today, seventy years later, when  
 6 I learned that there are groups of people who  
 7 actively advertise and broadcast that in their  
 8 eyes there is no place for my seven children in  
 9 the entire Hudson Valley region, teaming up with  
 10 those who fight against Hasidic developments in  
 11 Blooming Grove and Woodbury, and even as far  
 12 north as in Bloomingburg, I'm starting to worry.

13 On the contrary, over the past fifteen to  
 14 twenty years we have seen an increase of  
 15 construction in the region, and I ask myself if  
 16 there is a place in Monroe and in Woodbury for  
 17 Wal-Mart, for BJ's, for Target, Home Depot,  
 18 Kohl's, Michael's, Staples, Best Buy and other  
 19 commercial retail stores, but for my seven  
 20 children and the other over 8,000 children, girls  
 21 that live in this community, there's no place.  
 22 If there is a place for sixty more retail stores  
 23 in the Woodbury Commons along with the five-story  
 24 parking garage, no demonstrations are held, no  
 25 County public hearing, no assembly legislators

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2 pass --

3 MR. WELLS: Mr. Hirsch, thirty seconds.

4 MR. HIRSCH: -- to study the traffic  
5 impact of such. But for my kids the County is  
6 spending \$200,000 to study. The contrast is  
7 clear, the hypocrisy is obvious, and the double  
8 standards are shown in true colors.

9 In the name of my seven children, in the  
10 name of the parents of over 8,000 kids growing up  
11 in KJ, we ask our elected officials in the Town,  
12 in the County, in the State and the Federal  
13 Government, please don't support the doctrine and  
14 the philosophy that there is no place for our  
15 children in Monroe and in the region.

16 MR. WELLS: Thank you, sir.

17 MR. HIRSCH: Please let us continue our  
18 tradition. Let us practice our religion the way  
19 we have done for thousands of years.

20 MR. WELLS: Thank you, sir.

21 MR. HIRSCH: We are proud American  
22 citizens --

23 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Mr. Hirsch --

24 MR. HIRSCH: -- and are thankful for a  
25 government that gives to bigotry no sanction and

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2 to --

3 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Mr. Hirsch, you will

4 stop.

5 MR. HIRSCH: -- and justice for all.

6 Thank you.

7 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Mr. Wells, give me a  
8 moment, please. This will be probably a very  
9 long evening. This is an opportunity for

10 everybody to be heard. You have three minutes to  
11 be heard. That is what the law says. Many of us  
12 here would welcome the opportunity to be able to  
13 extend more time to you. Most of the elected  
14 officials here would be more than favorable to

15 meet with you one on one, meet with you in small  
16 groups, meet with you in other places to discuss  
17 this. However, here we're going to limit it to  
18 three minutes. For those -- all of you are going

19 to be two-and-a-half minutes in, at the  
20 thirty-second time you're going to be asked just  
21 to wrap up your statement. For those who have a  
22 question about that, I'm sorry, that's going to  
23 be the protocol we will follow throughout this  
24 evening. Thank you.

25 The next speaker.

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2 MR. WELLS: Mr. Fromaget, followed by  
3 Daniel Richmond, followed by Krista Yacaroné.  
4 MR. FROMAGET: Hello. These are my  
5 comments about the Draft Environmental Impact  
6 Statement. You assume in your population growth  
7 analysis that the U.S. census growth is valid,  
8 however my analysis suggests that the U.S. census  
9 data is flawed and does not reflect the Kiryas  
10 Joel growth rate. In fact, my study suggests  
11 that the growth rate is closer to 8.5 percent and  
12 is consistent with the housing unit growth rate  
13 over the 2000-2010 period. This study has  
14 already been provided to you earlier. The 2010  
15 U.S. census population of 20,175, this represents  
16 a population when the census was collected during  
17 the 2010 year and does not consider the year-end  
18 population which was really 2,878. This is  
19 supported by the census summary document on page  
20 1 of section H. Page 1, the U.S. census data  
21 reported an average growth rate of 54 percent --  
22 I'm sorry, 5.4 percent. And despite the average  
23 of 5.6 growth in your table in E-3, it still  
24 understates the rather conservative U.S. census  
25 growth rate. This is because of the local growth

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2 rate used in the first six years of your table  
3 E-3 section E. The U.S. census growth rate  
4 actually supports 45,660 residents by 2025 and  
5 assumes that you use the actual year-end growth  
6 rate population of 2,878. In your document you  
7 use the school age children in your parochial  
8 schools. This is not based on any methodology  
9 that I've ever seen projecting population. In  
10 addition, it does not -- it is not verifiable  
11 since there's no independent source for this  
12 information besides your table in section page  
13 H-3. In addition, it does not take into  
14 consideration the doubling of the 35 to 45 year  
15 olds and the hundred percent increase in the  
16 growth for the 55 to 59 year olds and the 60 to  
17 65 year old groups that increased significantly  
18 during 2000 to 2010. These groups came with  
19 dependents and are not included in the projected  
20 growth rate. I fail to see any benefit for the  
21 community at large for these annexations. Now,  
22 since I have thirty seconds I'd like to address  
23 smart growth. Smart growth is when resources --  
24 when housing units are built around resources  
25 such as water and sewer. We do not have those



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 2 resources needed to support smart growth. That's  
 3 why we go to Cornwall, New Windsor for water.  
 4 That's why we need to expand the sewer district  
 5 into a waterway that already has more effluents  
 6 than it has capacity to process and exposes the  
 7 downstream communities that rely on this waterway  
 8 as a sole source aquifer. This is not smart  
 9 growth. Thank you. <sup>DGEIS/FGES</sup>  
 10 <sup>Chapter 2.2, 3.2, 3.1 + 3.1.5</sup>  
 11 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you.  
 12 Mr. Wells, the next speaker.  
 13 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Daniel  
 14 Richmond, followed by Krista Yacaronne, followed  
 15 by Elvy Stepinoff.  
 16 MR. RICHMOND: Good evening. My name is  
 17 Dan Richmond, I'm a partner with the law firm of  
 18 Zarin & Steinmetz. We represent United Monroe  
 19 which is a citizens group committed to  
 20 transparent and open government. United Monroe  
 21 clearly has no issue with the Village residents  
 22 themselves. Many of them are friends and very  
 23 likely want to seek the same fair and open  
 24 government that United Monroe seeks.  
 25 United Monroe takes issue with the Village  
 government which improperly conceals it's working

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 2 from public scrutiny, blocks and disregards  
 3 dissenting voices and sanctions poor development  
 4 without regard for the public safety, welfare and  
 5 the environment. Clearly ceding land to such a  
 6 government is not in the public interest.  
 7 The flawed and incomplete analysis in the  
 8 DGEIS can not justify the annexation. The DGEIS  
 9 is flawed in many respects and appears  
 10 significantly crafted to justify annexation  
 11 without the required analysis of the serious  
 12 adverse impacts that would result. The DGEIS for  
 13 example arbitrarily only assesses the potential  
 14 impacts of annexation through the year 2025.  
 15 This appears intended to avoid facing the <sup>Response 2-1 + 2-23</sup>  
 16 critical issues that would arise after that date.  
 17 Regardless of motivation, by limiting analysis to  
 18 just the next ten years, the DGEIS deliberately  
 19 avoids addressing the foreseeable impacts  
 20 annexation, including the massive population  
 21 increases that would likely occur if high-density  
 22 housing development were allowed as the Village  
 23 government would like. In any event however, the  
 24 DGEIS assertion that zoning in the Town lands  
 25 could be changed after annexation to allow high-

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2 density development is improper and illegal. By  
 3 law municipalities can not use annexation to  
 4 evade existing zoning laws. *Response 2-23*  
 5 Moreover, as shown on this map, which I  
 6 want to be clear was commissioned by the Village  
 7 government itself, the natural growth of the  
 8 Hasidic community could be accommodated, it would  
 9 appear, without annexation. This map shows --  
 10 this map, which again I want to emphasize was  
 11 prepared by the Village -- commissioned by the  
 12 Village government, shows that there are over  
 13 3,000 acres of Hasidic owned property outside  
 14 Kiryas Joel. The DGIS fails to consider what  
 15 development is allowed in these areas under  
 16 existing zoning and whether it could accommodate  
 17 the Hasidic community's natural growth. Perhaps  
 18 more disturbingly, the DGIS fails to explain why  
 19 it's even necessary to expand the Village  
 20 government's jurisdiction to accommodate natural  
 21 growth. The U.S. Constitution prohibits *DGIS Pgs. 2-11 to 2-13*  
 22 religious states and this is with good reason.  
 23 They make bad government. As Monroe Town  
 24 Supervisor William Rogers declared in 1976 on the  
 25 original petition to incorporate the Village,

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2 Kiryas Joel was created for the expressed purpose  
 3 --  
 4 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.  
 5 MR. RICHMOND: -- of avoiding Monroe's  
 6 zoning laws. Forty years later I'm not surprised  
 7 that the Village has flouted it's obligation ever  
 8 since.  
 9 Three minutes is obviously not enough time  
 10 to comprehensively address the multiple  
 11 substantial flaws in the DEIS. Sufficed to say  
 12 that violating the Constitution can never be in  
 13 the overall public interest, particularly where,  
 14 as here, it would result in the extension of a  
 15 very sort of unresponsive, improper government  
 16 that the constitution was designed to protect  
 17 against.  
 18 Thank you for your time,  
 19 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you very much.  
 20 Mr. Wells, the next speaker.  
 21 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Krista  
 22 Yacarone, followed by Elvy Stepinoff, followed by  
 23 William Badura.  
 24 MS. YACARONE: Good evening. My name is  
 25 Krista Yacarone and I'm also an attorney with the

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2 law firm Zarin & Steinmetz representing United  
3 Monroe.

4 Respectfully, both the 507 acre petition  
5 and 164 acre petition contain multiple fatal  
6 flaws and wholly fail to comply with Article 17  
7 of the General Municipal Law.

8 First, both petitions violate the GML  
9 requirement that all persons signing the petition  
10 be qualified to do so. There are various alleged  
11 business organizations that signed the petitions  
12 but that are not active or valid corporations  
13 formed under the State Business Corporation Law,  
14 Not-For-Profit Corporation Law or Religious  
15 Corporation Law. In United Monroe's written  
16 submission we specifically identified which  
17 business organizations are invalid. Both  
18 petitions should be dismissed for failing to  
19 obtain valid qualified signatures.

20 Second, both petitions fail to  
21 substantially comply in form or content with GML  
22 Article 17 in that they both fail to sufficiently  
23 describe the territory proposed for annexation.  
24 For example, exhibit A of the 507 acre petition  
25 contains a description for 164 parcels whereas

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2 exhibit C to the 164 -- excuse me, 507 acre  
3 petition contains 177 parcels. There are also  
4 similar discrepancies in the 164 acre petition.  
5 It is impossible for your Boards to consider the  
6 petitions when it's not even clear what territory  
7 is being proposed for annexation, let alone  
8 possible for your Boards to approve an annexation  
9 with the petitions as they are currently drafted.  
10 Both petitions must be dismissed.

11 The petitions fail to substantially comply  
12 in form or content with the GML in many other  
13 ways. First, United Monroe has previously  
14 pointed out either annexation would violate the  
15 establishment clause of the U.S. Constitution and  
16 constitute improper delegation of political power  
17 based on the religious criteria.

18 Second, approving the petitions would  
19 cause the Monroe Town Board Members to violate  
20 the town code standard of ethics. As United  
21 Monroe has also pointed out, the code  
22 specifically establishes that causing voluntary  
23 segregation is not in the public interest and  
24 explicitly prevents town board members and  
25 employees from causing voluntary segregation. As

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2 such, any action to promote the voluntary  
3 segregation of a particular religious group, like  
4 approving annexation, would violate the code and  
5 subject board members to potential disciplinary  
6 action under the code.

7 The form and content of the petitions is  
8 further flawed because the Village government is  
9 clearly attempting to misuse the annexation  
10 process to change zoning in a relative territory  
11 and avoid the Town's current zoning which, --

12 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

13 MS. YACARONE: -- as Dan stated  
14 previously, is improper under New York law.

15 Furthermore, the 507 petition in  
16 particular would result in highly irregular  
17 jagged borders between the Town and Village.  
18 Such road boundaries have been condemned by the  
19 New York courts.

20 Furthermore, as the DGIS makes clear,  
21 approving the annexation would result in <sup>DREIS/</sup>  
22 unregulated, high-density development, which <sup>FAEIS</sup>  
23 certainly is not in the public interest. <sup>Chapter 2.2</sup>

24 The Village itself has publicly told New <sup>Response</sup>  
25 York State that annexation of lands could alone <sup>2.20</sup>

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2 accommodate 8,550 new residents.

3 MR. WELLS: Time is up.

4 MS. YACARONE: Thank you for the  
5 opportunity.

6 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Our next speaker.

7 MR. WELLS: Our next speaker is Eivy  
8 Stepinoff.

9 MR. STEPINOFF: My name is Eivy Stepinoff  
10 and I've lived in the Village of Monroe for  
11 almost ten years. I too come from a family that  
12 lived in the Stetzels and Jewish ghettos of  
13 eastern Europe. My grandparents came to this  
14 country at the start of the last century looking  
15 to escape that harsh life and the pagrums led by  
16 Zar's thugs against Jewish communities. They  
17 left behind many friends and relatives who were  
18 later destroyed by the Nazi Holocaust during  
19 World War II. I grew up with the stories of  
20 their lives in the old country and the horrors of  
21 the death camps they were lucky enough to escape.  
22 When they came here, however, they were not  
23 welcomed with open arms. Rather like all  
24 immigrant groups before them and after them they  
25 faced discrimination. There were neighborhoods

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2 they could not live in, schools and colleges they  
3 could not attend, clubs they could not join and  
4 more. This kind of discrimination and downright  
5 hatred exhibited by some people in our society is  
6 not directed just at Jews. Many people  
7 considered different by the majority are  
8 subjected to the same restrictions and worse.  
9 Racism and anti-Semitism and anti-other in  
10 general is still too much a part of our society.  
11 So I grew up learning to work towards civil  
12 liberties for all people. All people regardless  
13 of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation,  
14 et cetera. That is what my grandparents worked  
15 for and my parents and my children as well. Now  
16 I find myself being called anti-Semitic because I  
17 oppose annexation of all land into the Village of  
18 Kiryas Joel. I reject that accusation with my  
19 whole being. I am not anti-Semitic. I am not  
20 anti-Hasidic. What I am against is the existence  
21 of a bureaucratic government within this country  
22 founded on freedom of religion. Isn't that why  
23 the Pilgrims came here? Isn't that why my  
24 grandparents came here? My guess is that's why  
25 the Satmars came here. It is clear that I am not

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2 welcome in Kiryas Joel as a resident. Even as a  
3 visitor I am told by a sign at the entrance how  
4 to dress, who to talk to and who not to touch.  
5 These signs say to me go away, you're not wanted  
6 here. There are many Hasidim living outside the  
7 confines of Kiryas Joel but I know of no one  
8 living within KJ who is not Hasidic. That is  
9 discrimination. That infringes on my right to  
10 live where I want and practice my moral  
11 principles as I see fit.  
12 Finally, as I understand the Constitution  
13 of the U.S. and New York State, no government  
14 shall establish or favor one religion over  
15 another or none at all. The protection of  
16 people's rights to worship as they wish does not  
17 mean that the rest of the community has to give  
18 up their own rights. We too are meant to be free  
19 to live in an area we have chosen with a strong  
20 public school system and a great diversity --  
21 MR. WELLS: Time is up.  
22 MR. STEPINOFF: -- a healthy environment.  
23 It is not anti-Semitism that inspires my  
24 opposition to the annexation --  
25 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Time is up. Thank you

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2 very much.

3 MR. STEPINOFF: -- but rather the total  
4 disregard of the rights of those --

5 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you.

6 MR. STEPINOFF: -- and have my children  
7 live in this area too.

8 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you.

9 -- the next speaker, please.

10 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is William  
11 Badura.

12 MR. BADURA: Good evening. My name is  
13 William Badura, I'm with the firm of Kornfeld,  
14 Rew, Newman & Simeone. We're attorneys for the  
15 Monroe Joint Fire District. I'm here tonight to  
16 put on the record Monroe Joint Fire District's  
17 opposition both to the DGEIS and the annexation.

18 Currently Monroe Joint Fire District is  
19 the fire prevention -- or fire provider for this  
20 annexed area. With the annexation, if it goes  
21 through, will remain the fire services provider  
22 for that area. But most certainly, pursuant to  
23 Section 182 of the Town Law, someone is going to  
24 petition the Monroe Town Board to change that  
25 boundary, to have it go within the KJ fire

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2 protection and their fire department. The Monroe  
3 Joint Fire District's primary concern with that  
4 potential of the annexed portion coming into the  
5 KJ fire department is that they lack interior  
6 firefighters to fight interior fires. As a  
7 result, it's inevitable that there's going to be  
8 an abuse of the mutual aid system which will  
9 require the Monroe Joint Fire District and it's  
10 over 100 volunteer firefighters to respond to the  
11 KJ Village area and provide fire prevention.

12 So again, based on the primary concern of  
13 the lack of interior firefighters that the KJ  
14 fire department has and we anticipate will  
15 continue not to have interior firefighters, it  
16 would be an abuse to the mutual aid system and  
17 pose a risk to the volunteers and an undue burden  
18 on them in the Monroe Joint Fire District. Thank  
19 you.

FGEIS Chapter 3.38 Response 6 to 9

20 SUPERVISOR DOLES: The next speaker,  
21 please.

22 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Emily  
23 Convers. Emily Convers, followed by Dan  
24 Casiricóne, followed by Steven Welle.

25 MS. CONVERS: Segregation distorts the

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2 soul and damages the personality. It gives the  
 3 segregator a false sense of superiority and the  
 4 segregated a false sense of inferiority. Martin  
 5 Luther King Junior. The difference between de  
 6 jure and de facto segregation is the difference  
 7 between open forthright bigotry and the shame  
 8 based kind that works through unwritten  
 9 agreements between real estate dealers, school  
 10 officials and local politicians. Shirley Chism.  
 11 She was an African American congresswoman  
 12 representing New York's twelfth congressional  
 13 district for seven terms from 1969 to 1983.  
 14 These quotes of course relate to the segregation  
 15 which occurred in the United States prior to and  
 16 in the midst of the civil rights movement in the  
 17 1960s.

18 Here I stand today in Kiryas Joel  
 19 wondering why our local politicians are ready to  
 20 allow a real estate developer and KJ's leaders to  
 21 further the cause for segregation right here in  
 22 Monroe. Religion is being used as a reason for  
 23 this, and religion is being used as a weapon  
 24 against the non-Satmar in our community. Replace  
 25 the term non-Satmar with blacks and you will

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2 understand the meaning of the discrimination the  
 3 people of Monroe are feeling today.

4 Mayor Weider and Mr. Segatin were in  
 5 Albany last week fighting against the two  
 6 annexation bills which were passed in the  
 7 assembly this week. These bills would allow for  
 8 more environmental oversight in the annexation  
 9 process. Mayor Weider delivered a letter to each  
 10 assembly member inviting them to come and visit  
 11 and understand the culture of KJ. In his letter  
 12 Mayor Weider suggested that because of the  
 13 culture of KJ and the need for young married  
 14 couples to live near their mother, Weider was  
 15 simply working to accommodate his people. What  
 16 does your culture have to do with disobeying the  
 17 laws of the land? Nowhere in State annexation  
 18 law does culture or religion come into play, nor  
 19 should it. It's not your job as the mayor of a  
 20 municipality to provide for the religious or  
 21 cultural needs of your citizens. Your job is to  
 22 create good government, to keep your roads safe  
 23 and clean, to balance your budget, follow the law  
 24 of the land, the laws of the New York State  
 25 Constitution and the Constitution of the United

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2 States.

3 KJ, the Village, ironically was formed not  
4 long after the civil rights movement and after  
5 segregation ended. Since then the Village of KJ  
6 leaders have been actively carving out what the  
7 leaders themselves refer to as a holy city  
8 consisting of people of only one color, one  
9 faith. This institutionalized segregation is  
10 illegal and those of us who are not born into  
11 this faith, this color, this culture, must stand  
12 aside, move aside and succumb to the wishes of  
13 the --

14 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

15 MS. CONVERS: -- orchestrating these land  
16 grabs.

17 Withdraw the annexation petitions for the  
18 sake of those people who live, work, love,  
19 survive and breathe around you. Withdraw the  
20 annexation petitions for the good of your own  
21 citizens who suffer more than you may ever know  
22 from segregation and an extreme lack of education  
23 which would allow your citizens to become more  
24 productive members of society.

25 I'll leave you with a quote from Mia

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2 Angelu. "In so many ways segregation shaped me  
3 and education liberated me."

4 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you. The next  
5 speaker, please.

6 MR. CASTRICONE: Dan Castricone, Town of  
7 Tuxedo. I live downstream. I'm very happy to be  
8 able to make it here tonight. Unfortunately the  
9 last meeting that was held was in an ice storm  
10 that to me was absurd to go along with the  
11 meeting. I made lots of phone calls that night,  
12 even calling the county executive. Steve, how  
13 can they have this meeting. It's like Dan,  
14 there's nothing I can do, I know it's crazy. I  
15 would have to tell you that it's a slap in the  
16 face to those of us here who are really concerned  
17 about the environment and what's going on that  
18 you held the meeting at a time when you knew no  
19 one could come.

20 We hold these truths to be self evident  
21 that all men are created equal. I believe that.  
22 I think they meant it when they wrote it. We  
23 look at the services that you're looking to have  
24 provided for you. I have a daughter. I have a  
25 nice big piece of land in the Town Of Tuxedo. I

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2 would love to have my daughter be able to build a  
 3 house next to mine. We have two acres at the end  
 4 of a dead-end street. I'd love to have the town  
 5 subdivide my property for me and allow me to  
 6 build a house. But you know what. There's  
 7 nothing that special about me that the Town of  
 8 Tuxedo should let me subsidize my property  
 9 against all of the zoning. There's nothing  
 10 special about me. There's nothing special about  
 11 you either. There's nothing special about any of  
 12 us. We are all created equal. It's not up to  
 13 the government to decide how we're going to  
 14 provide these services in areas that aren't part  
 15 of the Town. How we're going to pull in areas  
 16 into the annexation area.

17 The Ramapo River is not anti-Semitic. The  
 18 Ramapo River doesn't care where the effluent  
 19 comes from. The people who live in Mahwah and  
 20 Rockland County, the people whose wells are  
 21 recharged by the Ramapo River don't care where  
 22 the effluent came from. The river simply can not  
 23 hold any more effluent. You can't put any more  
 24 in the river. *Response 3.5.8-2 and 3*  
 25 Finally, we bring up lots and very brave

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2 young ladies to come up and speak. I'm very,  
 3 very impressed, very proud of them. These people  
 4 that want to have their properties annexed --

5 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

6 MR. CASTRICONE: -- first I would like to  
 7 know what the response was from the Town Board  
 8 when you asked them to put in sidewalks and  
 9 lights. What was the vote? I would like to know  
 10 how you guys voted for that. Or when you asked  
 11 them to provide police services, how they voted  
 12 for that. Also, the people who stand to make  
 13 millions of dollars because they bought a piece  
 14 of property that was zoned for one family and now  
 15 they'll be able to build an apartment building  
 16 and condos and sell those properties, why don't  
 17 we talk about that.

18 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you, Mr.  
 19 Castricone.

20 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Steve  
 21 Welle, followed by Bruce Chichester.

22 MR. WELLE: Good evening. My name is  
 23 Steve Welle. I've been a resident of the Village  
 24 of Harriman for the past thirty-eight years and  
 25 I've served on the Village Board since 1997.

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2 I've been the mayor since 2001. Having lived in  
3 the area for thirty-eight years and through my  
4 experience on the Village Board I have several  
5 major concerns, and I am adamantly opposed to the  
6 proposed unsustainable 507 and 164 acre  
7 annexation from the Town of Monroe to the Village  
8 of Kiryas Joel.

9 I'm also under the opinion that this  
10 public hearing is illegal due to the fact that  
11 the court has not ruled on the sequence of events  
12 of the three annexations, the proposed 507 and  
13 164 acre from Town of Monroe into Kiryas Joel and  
14 the proposed 336 acre annexation into south  
15 Blooming Grove. New York State General Municipal  
16 Law Section 239 L, M and N require that certain  
17 land use actions being reviewed under local  
18 zoning, site plan and subdivision regulations, be  
19 referred to a county planning agency for review  
20 and comment on aspects of the proposal that are  
21 of county wide or intermunicipal significance.

22 The Village of Kiryas Joel has a history of  
23 consistently ignoring the Section 239 reviews  
24 which are required of all municipalities. This  
25 shows their complete lack of respect and caring

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2 for the surrounding communities.

3 The April 29, 2015 DGEIS transmitted by  
4 Tim Miller Associates states that the population  
5 of Kiryas Joel will continue to grow regardless  
6 of this annexation being approved or not. In all  
7 other communities in Orange County new  
8 development is based on available resources and  
9 infrastructure. The Village of Kiryas Joel has  
10 made it very apparent in this DEIS that they plan  
11 on continuing to allow new construction without  
12 any regard for the availability of water and  
13 sewer resources. Several years ago when there  
14 was a moratorium on sewer connections in Orange  
15 County's sewer district number one, Kiryas Joel  
16 continued to allow new construction and sewer  
17 connections while the other communities in the  
18 districts abided by the moratorium. This is  
19 another indication in their history of their lack  
20 of respect for the law or desire to get along  
21 with their neighbors. DEIS/FEIS Chapter 3.5

22 The Village of Harriman residents have had  
23 to endure years of odor issues at the Harriman  
24 wastewater treatment plant. Increased flows  
25 created by the explosive growth of Kiryas Joel or

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2 any other community is going to --

3 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

4 MR. WELLE: -- exasperate this problem.

5 In addition to the odors at this plant, as  
6 this plant nears capacity there is a great  
7 concern as to what happens when the new  
8 construction causes the plant to be overcapacity.

9 At times over the past several years this has  
10 been the case, and every one has had to share in  
11 the fines, not just the one causing the problem.

12 Village of Harriman has experienced  
13 elevated chloride levels in wells along the  
14 Ramapo over the past few years.

15 MR. WELLS: Mr. Welle, your time is up.

16 MR. WELLE: I will submit the rest. Thank  
17 you.

18 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you. The next  
19 speaker, please.

20 MR. WELLS: Bruce Chichester, followed by  
21 Rich Cannava, followed by Lorraine McNeil.

22 MR. CHICHESTER: Bruce Chichester, Village  
23 of Harriman trustee and former mayor. There are  
24 many points in the DGEIS prepared by Tim Miller  
25 Associates which are questionable, which is not

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2 surprising. There have been numerous actions  
3 taken by the Village of Kiryas Joel leaders over  
4 the last several years that have most of us  
5 asking what is happening here. Unfortunately,  
6 due to their past actions of noncompliance and  
7 disregard for their neighbors, there is no  
8 confidence that this is an honest and accurate  
9 reflection of the potential impacts which this  
10 annexation would have on the area. Given their  
11 history why shouldn't we expect to see  
12 multi-story apartment units even though this  
13 possibility doesn't appear to be addressed in the  
14 DEIS? The DGEIS does not reflect the impact on  
15 the local volunteer fire departments. Currently  
16 the Kiryas Joel volunteer fire department relies  
17 on the surrounding volunteer fire departments for  
18 mutual aid. It is safe to assume that the number  
19 of structure fires would also increase, putting  
20 another unreasonable demand on our volunteers.  
21 Why wasn't this addressed? (Same as above)

22 The DGEIS claims that because the Hasidic  
23 women do not drive the traffic impacts will be  
24 minimal. If the population increases at just the  
25 conservative rate indicated in the DGEIS, there

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2 will be a dramatic increase in traffic due to the  
 3 increased services to serve the additional  
 4 population. There is more to traffic than just  
 5 personal vehicles. A recent study done by the  
 6 Southeast Orange County Traffic Task Force warned  
 7 of the potential of violations of the Federal  
 8 Clean Air Standards with a modest to significant  
 9 increase in traffic in the affected areas. <sup>DGEIS/FAEIS</sup> Chapter 3.4.8

10 Although the DGEIS states that the  
 11 residents of Kiryas Joel do not utilize several  
 12 programs operated by the County, the majority of  
 13 Orange County residents do not utilize most of  
 14 these programs. Actually, most of the population  
 15 outside of Kiryas Joel support their families  
 16 without expecting the government to subsidize  
 17 them.

18 The Village of Kiryas Joel filed a SEQRA  
 19 document several years ago regarding the proposed  
 20 water pipeline connection to New York City  
 21 aqueduct. The findings in this SEQRA document  
 22 were based on an eighteen-inch main. When the  
 23 installation commenced, a twenty-four inch main  
 24 was installed, dramatically increasing their  
 25 capacity which was not addressed by SEQRA. Why

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2 should we believe any actions involving this  
 3 proposed annexation would be handled properly?  
 4 It is possible that the Town of Monroe  
 5 Board is going to vote against this annexation  
 6 because they know the decision will ultimately  
 7 wind up in a court to be decided. Don't let  
 8 these Board Members deceive you regardless of  
 9 their vote. They have not had the common  
 10 courtesy to communicate with the Village of  
 11 Harriman regarding how this potential annexation  
 12 would affect the Harriman wastewater treatment  
 13 plant --

MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

14 MR. CHICHESTER: -- even though the issue  
 15 is common knowledge. It appears that the Town  
 16 Board is not interested in the quality of life of  
 17 the majority of the people in this Town. The  
 18 potential annexation, if approved, would be  
 19 extremely detrimental to the Village of Harriman  
 20 and the surrounding area. The Village of Kiryas  
 21 Joel needs to consider the environmental and  
 22 economic impacts before permitting additional  
 23 construction of housing units like other  
 24 communities do. Thank you for your time.  
 25

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2 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Rich  
 3 Cannava, followed by Lorraine McNeil.  
 4 MR. CANNAVA: Rich Cannava, director of  
 5 Preserve Hudson Valley. I would like to open by  
 6 stating that the entire SEORA process is utterly  
 7 flawed. Granting lead agency over a municipal  
 8 annexation of this magnitude to the very party  
 9 that initialized the annexation request and needs  
 10 the annexation and its subsequent development to  
 11 repay debts is as good as leaving a wolf to watch  
 12 the chickens. It's insulting and ludicrous, and  
 13 hopelessly the bill sponsored by James Skoufis and  
 14 Carl Brabenec will solve that issue.

15 All that being said, I'm here to speak for  
 16 the environment because none of you sitting  
 17 before me will. I want to talk about the water  
 18 supply. Section 3.5.1 of the DGEIS, existing  
 19 conditions water supply. This entire section  
 20 should be disregarded and a supplemental EIS must  
 21 be prepared as stated in section 617.10 D 4 of  
 22 the State Environmental Quality Review Act. The  
 23 findings in this section are all contingent upon  
 24 Kiryas Joel's controversial pipeline hooking up  
 25 to the New York City/Catskill aqueduct. Kiryas

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2 Joel does not contain the necessary permits for  
 3 this action and it is not a foregone conclusion  
 4 that these permits will be granted. In fact, a  
 5 resolution was passed by the County of Orange  
 6 Legislature in 2013 that requires the Village of  
 7 Kiryas Joel to retain a permit authorizing the  
 8 Village to use the water that the pipeline is  
 9 being built for prior to continuing the  
 10 construction of the pipeline. You should know  
 11 that already, seeing as how you filed a lawsuit  
 12 challenging the resolution.

13 Back to section 3.5.1. The purpose of  
 14 this section is to prove that you can provide  
 15 water to the people who would live in the  
 16 potentially annexed land. Clearly this section  
 17 was not adequately addressed and must be looked  
 18 at again without considering the hook up to the  
 19 aqueduct since this may very well never take  
 20 place. What would happen if the annexation takes  
 21 place but the hook up to the aqueduct does not?

22 In section 617.9 B 1 of SEORA it states an  
 23 EIS must assemble relevant and material facts  
 24 upon which an agency's decision is to be made.  
 25 It must analyze the significant adverse impacts

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 2 and evaluate all reasonable alternatives. So I  
 3 ask you, what is your alternative to supply water  
 4 should the hookup to the aqueduct not be  
 5 permitted?  
 6 It is also required by the New York City  
 7 Administrative Code that the Village maintain 100  
 8 percent backup for the volume of water it will  
 9 take from the aqueduct, yet in section 3.5.1 you  
 10 state, and I quote, "Once the aqueduct connection  
 11 is made, it is anticipated that the Village will  
 12 have groundwater wells with sufficient capacity  
 13 to maintain the volume allowed to be drawn from  
 14 the Catskill aqueduct."

15 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.  
 16 MR. CANNAVA: So in order to hook up to  
 17 the aqueduct, the Village of Kiryas Joel must  
 18 first prove it can provide a hundred percent back  
 19 up. In order to prove this it must first hook up  
 20 to the aqueduct. I mean you can't write this  
 21 stuff. It seems like there's a lot riding on  
 22 hooking up to the aqueduct, something you openly  
 23 state in the DGEIS you currently do not have the  
 24 permits to do. I quote, "The City of New York  
 25 must still provide final engineering approval for

1 PUBLIC HEARING  
 2 the proposed Village connection to the Catskill  
 3 aqueduct." So it's not only the SEQRA process  
 4 that is utterly flawed but your unconvincing and  
 5 suspect argument. *Response 3, 5, 7-1*  
 6 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you, sir. The  
 7 next speaker, please.  
 8 MS. McNEIL: Should I wait for the absent  
 9 Board Members to come back? There's two Board  
 10 Members missing, the gentleman next to Mr. Doles  
 11 and the gentleman down there.

12 SUPERVISOR DOLES: I have no problem  
 13 waiting if that's --  
 14 MS. McNEIL: I think we should wait until  
 15 they come back, don't you?  
 16 (Applause.)  
 17 MS. McNEIL: Okay.

18 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Ladies and gentlemen,  
 19 we're going to adjourn for five minutes and give  
 20 them a chance to be able to, and for everybody.  
 21 This has been -- what, we're into the second  
 22 hour. We'll give everybody a couple minutes to  
 23 be able to attend to their --

24 Ms. McNEIL: And then hopefully every  
 25 single Board Member will be here and give us the

1 PUBLIC HEARING  
2 courtesy.  
3 SUPERVISOR DOLES: And hopefully all the  
4 public will be. Thank you.  
5 MS. McNEIL: I will wait for five minutes.  
6 Thank you.  
7 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Ladies and gentlemen,  
8 we're going to take a recess for five minutes.  
9 Thank you.  
10 (A recess was taken from 8:14 p.m.  
11 until 8:23 p.m.)  
12 MR. WELLS: Let's sit down so we can  
13 continue. Let's sit down so we can continue  
14 this. We have a lot of people who want to speak  
15 still. The next speaker is ready to speak.  
16 Next speaker, Lorraine McNeil.  
17 Please sit down. Quiet please. Please sit  
18 down and we will continue the hearing.  
19 Ms. McNeil, you're going to need to  
20 continue anyway. There will be a written record  
21 of what you say.  
22 MS. McNEIL: Is this on? Okay. We still  
23 have missing Board Members, including the  
24 Supervisor.  
25 Supervisor Doles, would you please come

1 PUBLIC HEARING  
2 back?  
3 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Ladies and gentlemen,  
4 if you can be seated and we'll restart the public  
5 hearing.  
6 MS. McNEIL: And that was a well needed  
7 break, wasn't it?  
8 SUPERVISOR DOLES: That being said, please  
9 note for the future that if the Board Members are  
10 not present, that a videotape and transcription  
11 will be provided. There's no need to have to, in  
12 case there's an emergency, either personal or for  
13 a private reason, that if a Board Member isn't  
14 here that we would have to stop. I thought this  
15 was a good time and I thank you very much.  
16 MS. McNEIL: So it wasn't personal?  
17 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Well I don't know. I  
18 didn't ask. That being said, please continue,  
19 Ladies and gentlemen, our next speaker  
20 is --  
21 MS. McNEIL: Lorraine McNeil, Town of  
22 Woodbury. I want to thank you gentlemen, Mr.  
23 Supervisor, Mr. Mayor, for your time this  
24 evening. I really appreciate it. It is a nice  
25 evening because there's no snowstorm.

1 PUBLIC HEARING

2 Basically why are we here tonight? We're  
 3 here for two reasons. To discuss the DGEIS but  
 4 also to ensure even application of the law for  
 5 all communities. There are two annexations being  
 6 considered here. One is for 164 acres, the other  
 7 for 507 acres which includes part of a County  
 8 park where a previous water tower request by the  
 9 Village was denied. Since the 164 acre  
 10 annexation is a segment of the 507 acre request,  
 11 and segmentation is contrary to New York State  
 12 law, it should be dismissed if all parties wish  
 13 to comply with the law. The New York State  
 14 Constitution Article 9 section 1 D states  
 15 Annexation Law, Article 17 -- Article 17, excuse  
 16 me, of the General Municipal Law and prevailing  
 17 case law clearly indicate that annexation must be  
 18 in the overall public interest. That means the  
 19 overall public interest of all the involved and  
 20 interested communities, not just the public  
 21 interest of one municipality. So how does it  
 22 benefit Monroe, or for that matter Woodbury,  
 23 Blooming Grove and the County to have a city  
 24 foisted upon them? Because that's what we're  
 25 talking about here.

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1 PUBLIC HEARING

2 And please note smart growth involves more  
 3 than sidewalks and public transportation. It  
 4 involves open space and wise use of resources and  
 5 no reliance on taxis as public transportation.  
 6 Is it in the overall public interest for one  
 7 municipality to impose its lifestyle on its  
 8 neighbors through a hostile takeover? Quoting  
 9 from the document, it says, "In the future,  
 10 whether or not the proposed annexation land --  
 11 annexation land becomes part of the Village of  
 12 Kiryas Joel, it will likely be developed to  
 13 accommodate the projected population growth."  
 14 This means high-density housing. So is this  
 15 annexation an attempt to circumvent current  
 16 zoning? That's also illegal under New York State  
 17 law. <sup>DGEIS/FGEIS Chapter 31</sup>  
<sup>and Response 2-13</sup>

18 The current zoning in the 507 acres does  
 19 not in any way restrict the practice of any  
 20 religion, it just restricts the intense build-  
 21 out. Surely religious worship is recognized  
 22 whether you're in an apartment or in a private  
 23 home, and surely it's recognized whether you  
 24 drive a car or not. Is it in the overall public  
 25 interest to develop housing to the point where

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1 PUBLIC HEARING  
 2 you exceed the capacity of natural and other  
 3 resources? As my Irish grandmother used to say,  
 4 you can't --  
 5 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.  
 6 MS. McNEIL: -- shove ten pounds of  
 7 potatoes in a five-pound sack. That's what the  
 8 Village is trying to do here in regards to sewer  
 9 capacity.  
 10 There are numerous issues not addressed  
 11 regarding water supply which is inadequate  
 12 currently and will be even more so if the  
 13 annexation goes through. There are issues not  
 14 addressed regarding interbase and transfers that  
 15 will help the Ramapo Basin but stress the already  
 16 stressed Moodna Basin, issues like increased  
 17 runoff due to increased impervious surfaces.  
 18 It is frequently asserted throughout the  
 19 document --  
 20 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Your time it up.  
 21 MS. McNEIL: I'll finish the one sentence.  
 22 It is frequently asserted throughout the document  
 23 that the anticipated exponential growth is  
 24 natural, but it does not include the growth due  
 25 to the influx of Satmar from Brooklyn.

*DOLES/FGEIS Chapters 2.0, 3.2, 3.5*

1 PUBLIC HEARING  
 2 Please consider that and vote no on this  
 3 annexation.  
 4 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you, Ms. McNeil.  
 5 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Karl  
 6 Brabeneec, followed by James Skoufis, followed by  
 7 Dor Hikind.  
 8 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Assemblyman Brabeneec,  
 9 thank you for attending.  
 10 MR. BRABENEEC: Thank you, Mr.  
 11 Supervisor, Mr. Mayor, Board Members. Thank you  
 12 for having me here tonight.  
 13 As a member of the assembly for the 98th  
 14 Assembly District I represent nearly 40,000  
 15 people in the Town of Monroe, including the  
 16 Village of Kiryas Joel.  
 17 I'm here tonight to say, like I have said  
 18 many times before, that this community needs  
 19 peace. We need to be good neighbors to each  
 20 other. Unfortunately the government of Kiryas  
 21 Joel has not acted as a good neighbor for quite  
 22 some time. In fact, it's been nothing but a  
 23 self-serving neighbor, and your neighbors in the  
 24 Town of Monroe and the whole of Orange County are  
 25 rightly upset.

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2 Furthermore, you are elected officials so  
3 you have a responsibility to accept criticism  
4 without name calling. Baseless charges of  
5 anti-Semitism, talk of our way or the highway, it  
6 only serves to insult your neighbors and punish  
7 both sides further apart.

8 Make no mistake that this isn't about your  
9 customs and it's not about your religion or your  
10 way of life. It's about your behavior. It must  
11 stop. Your neighbors have valid concerns and the  
12 questions must be heard. Your neighbors in  
13 Monroe, Tuxedo and Warwick want peace, and I know  
14 that you want peace. So we must understand and  
15 you must understand that since the year 2000 the  
16 Village of Kiryas Joel has grown nearly seventy  
17 percent, what The New York Times termed a break  
18 neck rate that has created struggles for the  
19 other residents in Orange County, especially in  
20 the Town of Monroe. How can Orange County keep  
21 pace? How will it afford infrastructure demands  
22 and increased traffic, and how will we deal with  
23 the environmental impact, including massive  
24 increase of waste into the Ramapo River? How  
25 will we afford the rising cost of Social Services

1 PUBLIC HEARING

2 for a population already 93 percent enrolled in  
3 Medicaid? These are very valid questions, very  
4 valid questions mand difficult questions, but  
5 they must be answered. And so far there's been a  
6 refusal to answer them.

7 So now we want to double or triple in size  
8 the Village of Kiryas Joel, yet we still haven't  
9 gotten these answers. You're asking your  
10 neighbors to roll over and do what you want  
11 without question, -- *DIETS/FAES Chapters 3.11+ 3.5*

12 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

13 MR. BRABENEC: -- and that's not how you  
14 achieve peace and it's not how good neighbors  
15 behavior.

16 Because you've sought to exclude or ignore  
17 the neighbors, I join with my colleagues,  
18 Assemblyman Skoufis to pass legislation at the  
19 State level that will give your neighbors a say  
20 in this process. Our bill just passed the  
21 assembly and it's now in the senate. It  
22 shouldn't have been necessary but it was because  
23 we need these answers.

24 I implore you, Mayor Weider and the  
25 members of the Village Board, please withdraw

1 PUBLIC HEARING  
 2 your annexation petition, sit down and negotiate  
 3 in good faith. Your neighbors will be heard by  
 4 the planning board or by the courts, but one way  
 5 or another you can not silence the people.  
 6 Thank you.

7 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you, Assemblyman.  
 8 Next speaker, please.

9 MR. WELLS: James Skoufis.

10 MR. SKOUFIS: Good evening and thank you  
 11 for the opportunity to speak. My name is James  
 12 Skoufis and I represent the 99th District in the  
 13 New York State Assembly.

14 Let me first say, Village officials, I  
 15 know you and your lobbyists have spent the past  
 16 few weeks feverishly working to defeat  
 17 legislation that will bring accountability to  
 18 this annexation process. I'm proud to say that I  
 19 serve in the assembly because this week we did  
 20 the right thing and overwhelmingly passed  
 21 legislation 110 to 33. I know Senator Markin is  
 22 making these bills a top priority and is working  
 23 very hard to pass them in his chamber before the  
 24 legislature recesses.

25 Let me speak about this annexation process

1 PUBLIC HEARING

2 the Village of Kiryas Joel has conducted. To  
 3 start, is this public hearing for the 164 acre  
 4 petition or the 507 acre petition? How are both  
 5 of these public hearings happening at the same  
 6 time? To make it very clear for the record, you  
 7 have given every person here a wholly inadequate  
 8 ninety seconds to comment on each of these two  
 9 petitions, not three minutes. Likewise, here we  
 10 are tonight, and it is a sham that we are holding  
 11 such a critical public hearing at a venue with a  
 12 few dozen parking spaces outside. It is a sham  
 13 that an important scoping session was held in the  
 14 middle of an ice storm. And this DGEIS is a sham  
 15 from beginning to end for projecting population a  
 16 mere ten years out, totally ignoring any build  
 17 out of the proposed annexed land, effectively  
 18 ignoring sewer capacity issues, and presenting a  
 19 suspect if not illegal plan for water using the  
 20 Mountainville well field. DGEIS/FCEIS Chapters  
 21 <sup>2, 3, 4</sup> <sub>2, 3, 1 + Response 2, 3</sub>

Let me reflect on the biggest sham of all  
 for the transcript and likely the judge that will  
 ultimately read the transcript of this hearing.  
 Kiryas Joel officials have steadfastly maintained  
 that these proposed annexations were

1 PUBLIC HEARING

2 independently driven by homeowners and landowners  
 3 and that the Village government is an unbiased  
 4 actor and has no control over the petitions, yet  
 5 one of, if not the biggest, landowner involved in  
 6 the petitions is Vod Hikuria, the development arm  
 7 of the Village's governing faction. This is the  
 8 same development company that was established by  
 9 former Village trustee and both planning and  
 10 zoning board chairman Myra Hirsch. This is also  
 11 the same company that current Village Mayor  
 12 Weider was the president of in the 1990s. Make  
 13 no mistake this is all about rezoning, all about  
 14 Vod Hikuria, making lots of money for a select  
 15 few that run the Village government, and all  
 16 about paying for a water pipeline loan that  
 17 Kiryas Joel can not otherwise afford to pay back.

18 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds, sir.

19 MR. SKOUFIS: These annexations have been  
 20 orchestrated from start to finish by Kiryas  
 21 Joel's government and have nothing to do with  
 22 independent homeowners or, from the perspective  
 23 of the Village, the overall public interest.

24 If either of these annexations proceed;  
 25 Town and Village Board Members, you will find

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2 yourselves in court at great taxpayer expense,  
 3 and I predict you will lose. So I ask that you  
 4 not take us down that perilous road and reject  
 5 both annexation petitions.

6 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you, Assemblyman.

7 MR. SKOUFIS: Once the petitions are  
 8 rejected --

9 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Assemblyman, thank you.

10 MR. SKOUFIS: I have two sentences left.

11 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Assemblyman,

12 Assemblyman, time is up. Thank you, sir.

13 MR. SKOUFIS: I'll submit the rest in

14 written comments. Thank you.

15 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Mr. Wells, may we have  
 16 the next speaker, please.

17 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Dov Hikind  
 18 please.

19 MR. HIKIND: My name is Assemblyman Dov  
 20 Hikind and I represent some neighbors in  
 21 Brooklyn. And those people who live in those  
 22 neighborhoods, people who live in this area of  
 23 Kiryas Joel, everyone has family here.

24 I have to tell you that, you know, the  
 25 undertone -- and this is the first time that I'm

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2 listening to one of these. The undertone that  
3 went on here tonight for me is very, very  
4 disturbing. You are entitled to find every  
5 single excuse you want to. By the way, like the  
6 people in Bloomingburg, the leaders of that  
7 community who now have been found by a federal  
8 Judge --  
9 THE PUBLIC: Address the Board.  
10 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Excuse me. If you call  
11 out you will be ejected.  
12 THE PUBLIC: Address the Board.  
13 MR. HIKIND: Can I finish?  
14 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Ladies and gentlemen,  
15 ladies and gentlemen.  
16 MR. HIKIND: Let me finish. I'm talking  
17 about --  
18 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Assemblyman,  
19 Assemblyman, I'm going to interrupt you.  
20 The assemblyman is going to be given the  
21 courtesy that Mr. Skoufis as well as Assemblyman  
22 -- as well as -- otherwise we will adjourn again.  
23 We will have civil order --  
24 MR. HIKIND: I think --  
25 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Excuse me. We will

1 PUBLIC HEARING  
2 provide a modicum of respect to the assemblyman  
3 in the same capacity that we afforded the other  
4 assembly speakers.  
5 I'm sorry, please continue.  
6 THE PUBLIC: Address the Board.  
7 MR. WELLS: Please address the Board.  
8 THE PUBLIC: It's a public hearing.  
9 MR. HIKIND: Excuse me. I can turn any  
10 way I want. Is that a rule too, I can't turn  
11 around? Is that another rule that you have?  
12 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Assemblyman.  
13 MR. HIKIND: I'll be happy to --  
14 SUPERVISOR DOLES: We appreciate and we  
15 value --  
16 MR. HIKIND: Let me --  
17 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Ladies and gentlemen  
18 --  
19 MR. HIKIND: Let me tell you what the  
20 problem is.  
21 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Excuse me, Assemblyman.  
22 Again, please remain seated. If you feel  
23 as though you have to get up, please go to the  
24 back of the room. We will not have anyone  
25 standing up in the seats. If you feel as though

1 PUBLIC HEARING  
 2 you need to stand up, stretch, whatever you want,  
 3 please go to the back of the room.  
 4 We'll wait a couple moments.  
 5 (Pause.)  
 6 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Assemblyman, again  
 7 we're going to try to continue. If I'm  
 8 interrupted or you're interrupted or the public  
 9 is interrupted, we will stop. So please  
 10 continue.  
 11 MR. HIKIND: There's a problem here that a  
 12 lot of people in this community, I'm not talking  
 13 about Kiryas Joel. If you look at the Hasidim  
 14 here, they're very different from you. They look  
 15 different. They don't go to the same restaurants  
 16 that you go to. They don't even go to your  
 17 bowling alleys. I do. They don't. Their  
 18 lifestyle is very different, you know. When some  
 19 of the people who spoke here said they had eleven  
 20 children, I could hear the ugh. Earlier this  
 21 evening when the conversation was about would you  
 22 prefer that people live all over Orange County,  
 23 there was cheering here. It's like yes, we don't  
 24 want these Hasidim to live together. That's a  
 25 problem. Let them live all over.

1 PUBLIC HEARING  
 2 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Assemblyman, I'm going  
 3 to interrupt you.  
 4 Would you escort the gentleman that's  
 5 standing outside please. The gentleman sitting  
 6 in the second row. The gentleman here, please  
 7 escort him outside.  
 8 THE PUBLIC: No, no, no.  
 9 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Please escort him  
 10 outside. Please escort him outside. Thank you.  
 11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I did nothing  
 12 wrong.  
 13 (Pause in the proceedings.)  
 14 SUPERVISOR DOLES: We're not doing that.  
 15 I had asked for everyone to remain seated.  
 16 We're going to hold off, ladies and gentlemen,  
 17 until this is resolved.  
 18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Excuse me. I'm his  
 19 attorney. If you escort him out this entire  
 20 hearing is invalid.  
 21 SUPERVISOR DOLES: I'm sorry, sir?  
 22 (Inaudible discussion.)  
 23 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Again, we have asked  
 24 everyone to remain seated.  
 25 Sir, you're counsel for the gentleman?

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2 Can you assure me that he's going to remain  
3 seated? That seems to be a reasonable  
4 accommodation so we can proceed. On your  
5 assurance, sir, we're going to continue. Thank  
6 you.  
7 Assemblyman, give us a moment.  
8 The security can step back, please.  
9 Assemblyman, please continue.  
10 MR. HIKIND: Okay. I just want to mention  
11 that the issue is not annexation. The issue is  
12 keeping the Orthodox, in particular the Hasidim,  
13 out of the community. That's what this is all  
14 about.  
15 By the way, by the way, the federal judge  
16 in Bloomingburg said that there was a clear  
17 attempt to keep Hasidic Jews out of that  
18 community. That's exactly what was going on in  
19 Bloomingburg. A federal judge only a couple of  
20 days ago.  
21 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Ladies and gentlemen,  
22 please, again. Otherwise we will have another  
23 adjournment. Please allow the assemblyman to  
24 speak. We paid our respect to the assemblyman --  
25 MR. HIKIND: By the way, I disagreed with

1 PUBLIC HEARING  
2 a lot of the comments and things I heard from the  
3 audience. I didn't get up and yell at anybody.  
4 I don't know why you can't give me the --  
5 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Assemblyman, I'm  
6 speaking, sir. Again, we're going to have quiet  
7 in this room or else we're not going to continue.  
8 So please continue.  
9 MR. HIKIND: I would like to urge  
10 everyone, the community of Kiryas Joel is an  
11 amazing community. Not perfect like your  
12 communities. Not perfect. People make mistakes.  
13 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Ladies and gentlemen,  
14 again. We're asking you to let the assemblyman  
15 speak.  
16 MR. HIKIND: This community is growing as  
17 has been pointed out. There's no question it  
18 will continue to grow, and no one is going to  
19 stop that growth, and it's going to be done the  
20 right way. The community will continue to grow  
21 contiguous to KJ. And I would urge everyone, we  
22 can avoid a lot of aggravation if everyone would  
23 work together, find a way, start a new chapter as  
24 of tonight, try to make things work for the sake  
25 of everyone. At the end of the day KJ is

1 PUBLIC HEARING

2 growing, will continue to grow. Let's do it  
3 peacefully. This is America. You can find all  
4 the excuses in the world, all the reasons of the  
5 world why it's not going to work, --

6 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

7 MR. HIKIND: -- all the things they've  
8 done wrong. But let's work together. This is  
9 America. Thank you.

10 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Ziggy  
11 Brach.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I have a  
13 suggestion, and that is --

14 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Bear with me. I didn't  
15 catch your name.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: If you would ask  
17 the speakers to address the environmental impact  
18 statement rather than making provocative  
19 speeches, you would have a quieter crowd.

20 MR. WELLS: Mr. Ziggy Brach. Mr. Zigmund  
21 Brach.

22 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Ladies and gentlemen,  
23 if we can keep the room quiet so we can hear the  
24 next speaker.

25 MR. BRACH: Good evening. I'm the first

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2 one to start off with the county executive, the  
3 comments that he made. I'm going to hold out  
4 other Orange County elected officials. When they  
5 came to build a casino in Orange County or the  
6 extension of Woodbury Commons, nobody ever  
7 questioned the environmental impact or the  
8 traffic impact. That was all ignored.

9 Now let me go to my speech. Good evening,  
10 ladies and gentlemen, elected Town and Village  
11 Board Members. Since I only have three minutes  
12 please forgive me for skipping. I'll go straight  
13 to the point. You elected officials have an  
14 important decision to make. The naked eye sees  
15 something to do with annexation, environmental  
16 studies, but the cultural does not have anything  
17 to do with that. The decision which lies on your  
18 shoulders is much deeper and much more  
19 significant than annexing territory.

20 I bought a house in the Town of Woodbury  
21 which is near the Village of KJ thirty-five years  
22 ago. On returning one night home with my wife  
23 when she was pregnant I was greeted at my house,  
24 somebody broke in and there was swastikas sprayed  
25 all over the sofas and things were destroyed.

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2 I'm sure you're thinking that that changed in  
 3 thirty-five years. Well let me tell you  
 4 something, this was not something was -- this was  
 5 not changed. The same thing happened to a friend  
 6 of mine that had a house that was built about  
 7 three years ago which was on the edge of the town  
 8 of Monroe and Blooming Grove by Cliff Road and  
 9 Seven Springs. He showed up one morning and his  
 10 windows were shattered and swastikas sprayed  
 11 inside. This was a clear message not about a  
 12 Village. No Village. This is simply we don't  
 13 want you to live with us because we're a Jew.  
 14 I bought -- I applied for a subdivision in  
 15 the Town of Monroe for 110 townhouses which would  
 16 have been a nice neighborhood. I bought a water  
 17 company to supply the water which was in  
 18 Woodbury. The Woodbury board went first and  
 19 adopted a law which said we can not -- you can  
 20 not take out water for one municipality to the  
 21 other.

22 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds, sir.

23 MR. BRACH: Of course I took it to the  
 24 courts and the court ruled it was an  
 25 unconstitutional local law. This doesn't mean

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2 they want us to live together in Orange County  
 3 with them.  
 4 I think the county executive should  
 5 realize that all the zoning variance was put up  
 6 in Blooming Grove where a group of people want to  
 7 make a nice community and now they have to take  
 8 the 600 homes. We have the run around for ten  
 9 years. The county executive --

10 MR. WELLS: Time is up, sir.

11 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Mr. Brach, thank you.  
 12 Your time is over. Thank you, sir.  
 13 The next speaker, please.

14 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Veronica  
 15 Connolly, followed by Joseph Scarmato, followed  
 16 by John Allegro.

17 MS. CONNELLY: Good evening. Thank you.  
 18 Since we've been getting a history lesson  
 19 tonight, I am deeply offended by those tonight  
 20 who continue to project anti-Semitic accusations  
 21 against myself and others who reside outside the  
 22 Village of Kiryas Joel. I had two grandfathers  
 23 and countless uncles who have served --  
 24 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Ms. Connelly, if you  
 25 could keep your voice down.

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2 MS. CONNELLY: -- in World War II.

3 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Please just temper your  
4 voice. Modulate it a little bit.

5 MS. CONNELLY: I will. If nobody  
6 interrupts me I won't raise it. Is that fair  
7 enough?

8 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Again, it was a concern  
9 with one of the speakers. I'm addressing the  
10 same concern with you.

11 MS. CONNELLY: That's fine. I won't --

12 SUPERVISOR DOLES: I apologize. You can  
13 set the clock back accordingly.

14 MS. CONNELLY: As long as nobody shouts at  
15 me I won't have to raise my voice. That's all.  
16 Thank you.

17 I had two grandfathers and several great  
18 uncles who served in the armed forces during  
19 World War II against Hitler and his Nazi army.  
20 My ancestors fought and countless servicemen died  
21 during that war against that fight. They did  
22 that for the freedom for the Jewish people in  
23 prison by Nazi Germany and Hitler. You have  
24 disgraced their honor by making anti-Semitic  
25 claims against people who are opposed to an

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2 annexation. This government continues to do that  
3 as it is represented by the flyers that were  
4 distributed today in Kiryas Joel. It was from  
5 Anash, which is the political arm of the  
6 government who promotes the current leaders of KJ  
7 and issues the instruction cards handed to the  
8 main faction KJ supporters outside the polling  
9 places in Kiryas Joel on election day. The Anash  
10 flyer warned the citizens of KJ not to speak to  
11 the press and not to receive any literature from  
12 the awful United Monroe. These flyers also  
13 promote the expansion of KJ's border and was  
14 clearly written to instill fear and disdain for  
15 the neighbors outside of KJ. This flyer was  
16 posted in congregations, yet -- I'm sorry for the  
17 pronunciation -- yetteclif. Anash has an address  
18 listed on the flyer. The address is 51 Forest  
19 Road, Kiryas Joel. Interestingly, the Kiryas  
20 Joel newspaper whose message is that of praise of  
21 the leaders of KJ and promotes the annexation and  
22 again shows disdain for United Monroe also has an  
23 address of 51 Forest Road in Kiryas Joel. KJ  
24 Consulting, the NSD which was formed to handle  
25 the annexation on behalf of the petitioners, also

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 2 coincidentally has an address of 51 Forest Road  
 3 in Kiryas Joel. And last but not least, the KJ  
 4 government offices are located --  
 5 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.  
 6 MS. CONNELLY: -- not to anyone's  
 7 surprise, at 51 Forest Road in Kiryas Joel. Is  
 8 it any wonder that the people are skeptical of  
 9 Kiryas Joel performing a legitimate analysis on  
 10 these annexations? Is it any surprise that this  
 11 room is filled with people who understand the KJ  
 12 government is orchestrating this land grab?  
 13 Let's stop the charade right now. Withdraw the  
 14 annexation petition, come to the table with  
 15 respect for your neighbors, open mind and agree  
 16 to an open dialogue.

17 MR. WELLS: Thank you.

18 SUPERVISOR DOLES: The next speaker,  
 19 please.

20 MR. WELLS: Joseph Scarmato, followed by  
 21 John Allegro.

22 MR. SCARMATO: Good evening, Mr.  
 23 Supervisor, Mr. Mayor, Members of the Board. I'm  
 24 an attorney and I happen to represent the United  
 25 Talmudical Academy. It may seem strange that I

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 2 came to represent them but I did so some twelve  
 3 years ago. I'm here tonight only because I want  
 4 to share with you some good news and some good  
 5 intentions by some of the members of the  
 6 community here which may have been overlooked by  
 7 some of the members of the community at large.  
 8 I believe -- if you don't know what the  
 9 UTA is, and I certainly didn't when I first came  
 10 to this area, it's a religious and charitable  
 11 organization that provides tuition-based  
 12 education to the residents, the students and  
 13 children of Kiryas Joel. Now, having  
 14 approximately 8,000 children that they educate  
 15 certainly relieves the burden on the larger town.  
 16 They do it out of charity with donations. This  
 17 is something that I think any religion or creed  
 18 should subscribe to. This is generosity, this is  
 19 moral behavior that I think all of us can  
 20 subscribe to.

21 I see a lot of animosity here tonight.  
 22 Quite frankly, I think all of us need to get  
 23 together on issues. I'm sure the Village leaders  
 24 understand why you have these feelings. Some of  
 25 them are justified. But in my opinion you need

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2 to learn a little bit more about the people that  
3 are your neighbors at this point because I think  
4 it would help generally. I applaud the  
5 assemblyman for making that plea as well.

6 The UTA has been a stabilizing force in  
7 the Village, educating thousands of children.  
8 The children are generally well behaved. The  
9 children grow up to be good citizens. There's  
10 very low incidence of crime, a relatively low  
11 incidence of any kind of misbehavior, drug use  
12 that's in the general population. There are good  
13 things to be seen for this. These people are  
14 your neighbors, and they will be your neighbors,  
15 and you should value them only because they're  
16 well behaved members of the community that want  
17 to cooperate with you.

18 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds, sir.

19 MR. SCARMATO: I'd like to just urge the  
20 Board to consider that there are good points,  
21 there are good people in this community that need  
22 the assistance of these religious organizations,  
23 they need the social services, and I implore you  
24 to vote yes on the application for annexation.  
25 These services can be provided to the members of

1 PUBLIC HEARING

2 the applicants. Thank you.

3 MR. WELLS: John Allegro, followed by  
4 Mendel Wieder.

5 MR. ALLEGRO: Good evening.

6 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Ladies and gentlemen,  
7 please keep it down for the speaker.

8 MR. ALLEGRO: Black's Law Dictionary  
9 defines arbitrary and capricious as a willful and  
10 unreasonable action without consideration or a  
11 disregard of facts or law without determining  
12 principle. The Supreme Court of the United  
13 States of America ruled on several occasions that  
14 a Constitutional power can not be used by way of  
15 condition to attain an unconstitutional result.  
16 I mention these two principles because an  
17 abundance of case law speaks against the  
18 annexation of 507 or 164 acres from the Town of  
19 Monroe into Kiryas Joel, so much that even the  
20 most reckless and irresponsible of our municipal  
21 Board Members should find trouble voting in favor  
22 of either.

23 Quite notably, the United States Supreme  
24 Court overturned an annexation of predominantly  
25 African American populated areas out of the City

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2 of Tuskegee in 1960. Why? Because the State of  
3 Alabama abused it's Constitutional power to alter  
4 municipal boundaries in order to deny African  
5 Americans their right to vote under the 15th  
6 Amendment. Justice Whitaker, in a compelling  
7 opinion, noted that the fencing of negro citizens  
8 out of one municipality and into another is an  
9 unlawful segregation of races of citizens in  
10 violation of the equal protection clause of the  
11 14th Amendment. This is why the annexation map  
12 of 507 acres looks like a jigsaw puzzles with  
13 several pieces missing. The chaotic boundaries  
14 of an expanded KJ are all about ethnicity and  
15 religion. Residents inside the map include names  
16 such as Goldberger, Rock, Weider, Freund,  
17 Oppenheim. Names outside the map include those  
18 such as Cruz, Colon, Gom, Vargas, Oliveria, Non-  
19 white ethnic minorities. Also included are names  
20 such as Buckiey, Driscoll, Fisher, Dombroski and  
21 Allegro, soon to be part of a non-Satmar minority  
22 living in desparit islands which are part of yet  
23 detached from the unincorporated Town of Monroe.  
24 Why are non-Satmar residents not part of  
25 the original petition and the map?

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2 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.  
3 MR. ALLEGRO: When taking all  
4 circumstances into consideration, the answer is  
5 quite clear. The annexation petition and map  
6 were deliberately designed to keep ethnic  
7 minorities and non-Satmars from exercising their  
8 rights to vote in a referendum, the final act of  
9 approval for annexation to New York State. This  
10 is an action that would impact their properties,  
11 qualities of lives and children's educations  
12 forever. The ethnic minorities and non-Satmars  
13 were deliberately gerrymandered out of the right  
14 to participate in local government.  
15 MR. WELLS: The time is up.  
16 MR. ALLEGRO: The orchestration --  
17 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Mr. Allegro, your time  
18 is up.  
19 MR. ALLEGRO: I would like to put on  
20 record Mr. Barshov had all the time he wanted.  
21 His --  
22 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Mr. Allegro --  
23 MR. ALLEGRO: -- should not be any more  
24 important than anybody else here. This hearing  
25 is a sham.

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2 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Your time is up. You  
3 can submit the balance in writing if you'd like.

4 MR. ALLEGRO: The hearing is a sham.

5 MR. WELLS: Next speaker is Mendel Wieder,  
6 followed by Cliff Ader.

7 MR. EGAN: I'm Michael Egan, over a  
8 thirty-year resident of the Town of Monroe. This  
9 confrontation is not about religion, and

10 everybody here tonight who tried to make it that  
11 way should be ashamed of themselves. What it is

12 about -- what it is about it a clash of

13 aspirations. On the one hand the leadership and

14 developers of the Village of Kiryas Joel want

15 unlimited access to water, sewer and land to

16 enable unlimited population growth. The ~~DAES~~

17 expectation is that much of the cost will be ~~Chapter~~

18 borne by the taxpayers of the County and the ~~3.2.11~~

19 State, and the preservation of the environment

20 has no place in the list of considerations.

21 On the other hand, the rest of the Town of Monroe

22 aspires to preserve the natural beauty and rural

23 character of the land, the high-quality school

24 district, single-family homes and a sustainable

25 level of taxes. That's the clash of aspiration.

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2 As we all know, the takeover of the East  
3 Ramapo School District by the school districts  
4 board was done to reduce taxes by gutting the  
5 district's programs. Although this benefits the  
6 one group who sends it's kids to private school,  
7 it is undeniably not in the public interest for  
8 the rest of the town citizens that use the public  
9 schools.

10 Like the East Ramapo takeover, an  
11 annexation of land to Monroe will benefit just  
12 one group. It would enable them to achieve their  
13 aspiration of unlimited growth. However, again  
14 like East Ramapo, the result would be the gutting  
15 of the aspirations of the rest of the Town's  
16 citizens as they watch the woods cut down and  
17 paved over, their taxes rise to pay for the cost  
18 of the new population, their school district  
19 threatened by the thousands of voters who don't  
20 use the schools. Just as obviously as the East  
21 Ramapo takeover, it is not -- it is not in the  
22 public interest. The annexation of Town land  
23 from Monroe to Kiryas Joel is also not in the  
24 public interest.

25 Mr. Doles, your public statements of the

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2 last two weeks seem to indicate that you're  
3 wavering --

4 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

5 MR. EGAN: -- on your longstanding support  
6 of the 507 acre annexation. Do not think for one  
7 minute this will provide you cover to vote for  
8 and push through the 164 acre annexation instead.  
9 That would only serve KJ's aspirations and it  
10 will not serve the rest of the Town citizens.  
11 Obviously it is not in the public interest.  
12 You've said ultimately --

13 MR. WELLS: Time is up.

14 MR. EGAN: -- this is an issue of water --  
15 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Time is up. Thank you,  
16 Mr. Egan.

17 MR. EGAN: -- and sewage.

18 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you very much.  
19 Thank you very much. Your time is up.

20 MR. EGAN: Don't forget that you and all  
21 of you will ultimately vote --

22 SUPERVISOR DOLES: We appreciate that.

23 MR. EGAN: -- and decide the annexation.

24 SUPERVISOR DOLES: The next speaker,  
25 please.

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2 MR. WELLS: Cliff Ader. Next speaker is  
3 Cliff Ader, followed by Michael Queenan.

4 MR. ADER: Thank you for the opportunity  
5 to speak in such a beautiful hall in the middle  
6 of the poorest community in the United States.  
7 Please, let me speak. I have three  
8 minutes.

9 Rabbi Wagschal, I'm a grandson of men and  
10 women from Poland who also fled Hitler and the  
11 annihilation of six million Jews. I'm saddened  
12 that as a community we continue to revisit the  
13 same topic. This entire annexation plan is  
14 archaic. When did it become a possibility to  
15 annex land from a neighboring community? Imagine  
16 your neighbor extending their home on your land  
17 before they ran out of property. It's issues  
18 like this that continue to alienate this  
19 community. Abusive Medicaid and social services  
20 fuel this debate, but the notion of a major land  
21 grab has created a feeling of distrust and hatred  
22 of this community, and it's palpable. Shamefully  
23 it's my belief that KJ, with all it's political  
24 might, will be successful in their bid. They may  
25 be granted a partial annexation in an attempt to

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 2 minimize the publicity and anger That would most  
 3 certainly result if the entire request was  
 4 initially granted. This partial victory will  
 5 ensure future success. It will also make it  
 6 appear that our elected officials fought and won.  
 7 The Village of KJ has already shown how  
 8 they act in their own interest. The rest of us  
 9 play by the rules. We conform to the laws of  
 10 this county and this country. This community  
 11 writes their own rules. When challenged we are  
 12 anti-Semitic. This offends me as a member of  
 13 this community and as a Jew. Rabbi Akiva, which  
 14 is my rabbi from Monroe Temple of Judaism, likes  
 15 to quote often, and I'm a proud member of that  
 16 community. Rabbi Akiva has stated, and I quote,  
 17 whatever you have to have done on to you, do not  
 18 do to your neighbor, wherefore do not hurt him,  
 19 do not speak ill of him, do not reveal his  
 20 secrets to others, let his honor and his property  
 21 be as dear to thee as thy own. Thank you.

22 SUPERVISOR DOLES: The next speaker,  
 23 please.

24 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Michael  
 25 Queenan, followed by Mike Anagnostakis.

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 2 MR. QUEENAN: Michael Queenan. I'm the  
 3 mayor of the Village of Woodbury.  
 4 There are many concerns. I will focus on  
 5 three. I'm concerned about the financials in our  
 6 community. The Village of Kiryas Joel was  
 7 incorporated in 1976 for the sole purpose of  
 8 circumventing zoning. Now in 2015 it is  
 9 happening again by a petition for annexation.  
 10 The General Municipal Law does not permit  
 11 circumvention of zoning as a valid reason for  
 12 annexation. In most municipalities it is the  
 13 developer who shoulders the responsibility and  
 14 cost of needed or required infrastructure.  
 15 Kiryas Joel, the business model, is a developer's  
 16 dream. The State and/or Federal Government  
 17 provide the funding, a/k/a Joe taxpayer, and the  
 18 developers and friends are cleaning up. This is  
 19 a very lucrative business.  
 20 Let's look at the cost. The last  
 21 expansion of the Harriman wastewater treatment  
 22 plant was approximately 25 billion for an  
 23 additional 2 million gallons per day. The next  
 24 capacity increase, whether it be an expansion or  
 25 a new plant somewhere else within the County,

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2 will cost in excess of 50 to 100 million dollars.  
3 The cost of this expansion will be the burden of  
4 the member communities of the Harriman wastewater  
5 treatment plant.

6 Let's look at the pipeline. That is  
7 funded by low interest loans from the State and  
8 doesn't have any approvals to connect to the New  
9 York City aqueduct, which I question if that was  
10 ever the real objective or just a smokescreen. I  
11 question the wisdom of spending millions of  
12 dollars without having approvals. Now that the  
13 pipeline is definitely a moving target, the size  
14 went from 18 to 24 inches and the projected cost  
15 to connect to the aqueduct went from 29 million  
16 to 48 million. I assume it will only be a mere 23  
17 million to the wells in Mountaintown. Will  
18 Albany forgive this debt and place the burden  
19 once again on the taxpayers? The Village of  
20 Woodbury is still waiting for payment for the  
21 site inspector we provided to the project on  
22 County Route 44. We're looking at 75 million to  
23 100 million and beyond with no end in sight.  
24 That's a lot of money to spend on one community  
25 since all the other communities in Orange County

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2 combined won't see anything close to that.  
3 Whatever you see in Woodbury was paid for by our  
4 residents.

5 MR. WELLS: Twenty seconds, sir.

6 MR. QUEENAN: I'm concerned about the  
7 compliance of planning laws. The government of  
8 Kiryas Joel has a history of showing total lack  
9 of compliance with GML 239 review without  
10 consequence.

11 I believe Kiryas Joel should not be issued  
12 any permits or approvals because of this and  
13 their perpetual failure to observe our Local,  
14 State, County and Town laws.

15 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you, Mayor.

16 MR. QUEENAN: Thank you.

17 SUPERVISOR DOLES: The next speaker,  
18 please.

19 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Legislator  
20 Mike Anagnostakis. Sorry. After Legislature  
21 Michael Egan.

22 MR. ANAGNOSTAKIS: I'm Orange County  
23 Legislator Mike Anagnostakis.

24 Gentlemen, citizens, as I said about a  
25 year-and-a-half ago when I addressed the Town

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2 Board of Monroe, I told you that ultimately these  
3 two Boards would have the final decision on the  
4 annexation. If one Board disapproved the  
5 annexation, it would head up in the state Supreme  
6 Court where judges would make the decision.

7 Some people call this document the truth.  
8 Some call it a scam. I suspect the final version  
9 will be very similar to what we have here. What  
10 you will not find in this document is any mention  
11 of 8,550 units that in the Kiryas Joel official  
12 document sent up to Albany said could easily be  
13 built on the annexed land, because that would  
14 necessitate zoning changes.

15 Gentleman Andrew Jackson once said about  
16 175 years ago we desire nothing but equal rights  
17 and equal laws for everybody. Whether you are on  
18 that standard or not, each of you are sworn to do  
19 exactly what Andrew Jackson was requesting. When  
20 you took office, like I, you rose your right hand  
21 and you did solemnly swear to uphold the laws and  
22 the constitution of this State to the best of  
23 your ability.

24 Let me talk a little about the laws and  
25 let me talk a little about an illegal annexation.

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2 The State Supreme Court of New York, on  
3 November 15, 1985 in the case of the Village of  
4 Skaneateles versus the Town of Skaneateles  
5 disallowed an annexation. To quote them, they  
6 said the town zoning ordinance was duly enacted  
7 and no question is raised as to it's validity.  
8 We have found no precedent approving the use of  
9 annexation as a device by which the owner of land  
10 in one municipality may escape the effect of that  
11 municipality's local zoning by having the land  
12 transferred to an adjoining municipality. That  
13 court --

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14 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Legislator, I'm sorry  
15 to interrupt. Thirty seconds.

16 MR. AGANOSTAKIS: -- reaffirmed the case  
17 in 1991 and then reaffirmed it again in 1999.

18 Gentlemen, in order to uphold your oath of  
19 office I submit to you that you must vote no on  
20 the annexation. If you should claim that you  
21 have insufficient knowledge of the law, I then  
22 submit to you that you should vote no and let the  
23 judges in the State Supreme Court that do know  
24 what the law is make the decision on annexation.  
25 We desire nothing but equal laws and equal rights

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2 for everyone.

3 May God always bless the United States of

4 America.

5 SUPERVISOR DOLES: The next speaker,

6 please.

7 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Noelle

8 Wolfson. Noelle Wolfson, followed by Brendan

9 Coyne

10 MS. WOLFSON: Good evening. Noelle  
11 Wolfson, Hocherman, Tortorella & Wekstein. We're  
12 counsel for the Town of Blooming Grove.

13 I'd like to focus my comments on the EIS's  
14 conclusion that annexation will not affect  
15 population growth. The Town will also be  
16 submitting more detailed comments.

17 I'd also like to request that the written  
18 comment period be extended to July 20th to allow  
19 time for the analysis of the County's studies.

20 Contrary to SEQRA's mandates, the EIS  
21 fails to analyze the long-term impacts of  
22 annexation on population, concentration,  
23 distribution and growth, and the analysis of  
24 short-term impacts lacks factual basis. The  
25 analysis has to be redone to enable the lead

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2 agency to meet it's obligation and take a hard  
3 look at the proposed annexation's impact on the  
4 patterns of population concentration and  
5 distribution. *DREIS Chapter 2.2 + 2.5*

6 First, the EIS's projections about the  
7 number of housing units and residents to be  
8 accommodated in the annexation territory under or  
9 without the annexation scenario is unreasonable.

10 It relies on hundreds of one and two-bedroom  
11 apartments to accommodate large families without  
12 explanation of how that's reasonable or feasible.  
13 The projections must be revised to face  
14 unreasonably supported assumptions. *DREIS Chapter 2.2 + 3.2.10*

15 Second, in it's effort to support the  
16 conclusion that annexation will not affect  
17 population and growth, the EIS assumes that any  
18 portion of the population increase projected by  
19 2025 that cannot be accommodated within the  
20 territory --

21 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Ladies and gentlemen,  
22 please keep it down. I'm sorry to interrupt.  
23 MS. WOLFSON: -- could be accomplished  
24 within the Village. That's 2,400 new housing  
25 units to support approximately 12,000 people on

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2 limited land.

3 Finally, the EIS does not study long-term  
4 population growth of annexation. The EIS only  
5 studies population through 2025. The study <sup>FAEIS</sup>  
6 period is shorter than the twenty-year study <sup>Response</sup>  
7 period including in the 2009 AKRF study and does <sup>2-17</sup>  
8 not account for long-term housing needs of 25 <sup>2-23</sup>  
9 percent of the Village's existing population.

10 That's children under five years old. Any study  
11 period that is less than twenty years in duration  
12 fails to account for the future needs of the  
13 existing population and fails to provide the lead  
14 agency with the information that it needs to take  
15 a hard look at population impacts.

16 A result of the proposed annexation is  
17 likely to be rezoning of the annexation territory  
18 to at least double the current density of  
19 development. That fact combined with a lack of  
20 empirical evidence supporting the conclusion that  
21 projected population could be accommodated within  
22 the annexation territory and the Village leads to  
23 the inescapable conclusion that annexation will  
24 affect population growth and the patterns of  
25 population, density, concentration and growth in

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2 the Village and it's surrounds.

3 These impacts --

4 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

5 MS. WOLFSON: -- must be identified and  
6 addressed in the EIS. Thank you.

7 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you, young lady.  
8 MR. COYNE: Good evening. I'm Brendan  
9 Coyne, mayor of Cornwall-on-Hudson. Thanks so  
10 much for having this hearing tonight.

11 I've been authorized by my board to speak  
12 at this public hearing, and I'm happy to say that  
13 many fellow Cornwall-ites are here as well. I  
14 also spoke at the Department of Environmental  
15 Conservation's April 29, 2014 public hearing on  
16 KJ's application for a well in Mountainville near  
17 Route 32 on the Cornwall/Woodbury border. KJ's  
18 leaders have yet to respond to my comments, and  
19 to my knowledge they have not responded to  
20 anyone's comments made at that time. It seems to  
21 me that this process shouldn't be moving forward  
22 until all these comments have been addressed.

23 Once again, KJ's leaders continue to  
24 demonstrate their hutzpah in not playing by the  
25 same rules as the rest of us, and it's apathy

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2 towards Orange County neighbors.

3 Now in this Generic Draft Environmental  
4 Impact Statement KJ proposed it's desire to have  
5 a well -- Mountainville well serve as an interim  
6 primary source, not the back-up water supply as  
7 previously claimed, for it's connection to the  
8 New York City aqueduct. *Response*  
9 Mountainville well to become a primary source of *3.5.7-1*  
10 water is irresponsible and nothing short of a  
11 water grab. The Town of Cornwall and the Village  
12 of Cornwall-on-Hudson oppose this major change  
13 and have recorded it's opposition with the DEC  
14 and requested a hearing on that matter alone.

15 We are the provider of water for most of  
16 the residents in the town as well as the  
17 residents of the Cornwall-on-Hudson Village, and  
18 we have concerns on record at least since as far  
19 back as 2007 for any proposal by KJ that might  
20 impact our ability to provide water to the  
21 residents of the town and the village.

22 We are also concerned that the proposed  
23 well will impact the private wells of residents  
24 in Mountainville and the western part of *Response*  
25 Cornwall, now only more so. *3.5.7-1*

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2 Further, we are concerned that this is but  
3 one step in a broader project and the phases have  
4 not been addressed which would constitute  
5 segmentation under the State Environmental  
6 Quality Review Act. Growth in Cornwall is  
7 inevitable. The Town of Cornwall will continue  
8 to grow in an orderly and sustainable manner.

9 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

10 MR. COYNE: Thank you. The town and  
11 village have long-term plans for providing  
12 municipal water over a significantly expanded  
13 area of the town. Maps prepared in 2002 show  
14 that we plan to expand our water service area,  
15 more than doubling the size of our current water  
16 district.

17 In closing I'd just like to say that we  
18 oppose the grabbing of our water by KJ.

19 SUPERVISOR DOLES: The next speaker,  
20 please.

21 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Abraham  
22 Fiohr, followed by Israel Knobluch.

23 MR. FLOHR: Good evening, Mayor, Town  
24 Supervisor. It's an honor for me to stand up in  
25 in front of you and talk. I'm standing here for

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2 almost two hours. I think if this is going to go  
3 on again and again, we will eventually get along.  
4 I mean it's nice for all of you to come out over  
5 here and share what you think.

6 We're in a great country of the United  
7 States that really has the right to express what  
8 we feel. Other countries, when this happens they  
9 take it out in the street, but it doesn't happen  
10 over here, which is great for both sides. I  
11 really appreciate that.

12 There's a difference of opinion, and all  
13 of your opinions really matter. I appreciate  
14 that. But I came here myself, I'm one of the  
15 paramedics. I'm actually a paramedic supervisor  
16 of KJ EMS. I'm the director of quality  
17 improvement for one of the great agencies which  
18 is called Hamaspik of Orange County. Hamaspik is  
19 an agency that's providing many, many services,  
20 not only to the individuals with developmental  
21 disability, it's an approved State provider for  
22 the entire Hudson Valley region. We do a lot of  
23 things. One of them environmental modification  
24 of homes for the individuals of need. As an  
25 approved access to home provider, which is

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2 anyone, any age with any disability, Hamaspik is  
3 a nursing home transition provider, a TBI, which  
4 is trauma brain injury provider. If someone was  
5 ever involved in an accident, doing modifications  
6 to the home, accommodations to meet their needs.  
7 Hamaspik provides activity, alongside of the  
8 senior dining program, for anyone over the age of  
9 sixty. To anyone. We're contracted with the  
10 County. All these services are provided  
11 throughout the entire County and beyond.  
12 Hamaspik already did many, many projects in  
13 Middletown, Newburgh, Warwick, Blooming  
14 Grove, --- -

15 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

16 MR. FLOHR: -- et cetera. While doing  
17 such home modifications we often may pick up  
18 additional needs for those individuals who find  
19 homes having lack of septic, or drinking water,  
20 and they have no relatives in the proximity to  
21 care for them. When they sometimes see an urgent  
22 need for individuals getting help, walking to the  
23 grocery for basic food --

24 MR. WELLS: Sir, your time is up.  
25 SUPERVISOR DOLLES: Thank you very much.

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2 MR. WELLS: Israel Knobluch, followed by  
3 Russ Kassoﬀ, followed by Andrew Buck.

4 MR. KNOBLUCH: Good evening. My name is  
5 Israel Knobluch, I'm the administrator of Kiryas  
6 Joel volunteer emergency medical services.

7 Kiryas Joel EMS has been providing high quality  
8 care with an exceptionally quick response time to  
9 the Kiryas Joel community and when we're called  
10 upon to our surrounding neighbors for close to  
11 forty years. In the past year KJ EMS responded  
12 to approximately 6,000 emergencies. In 2014 we  
13 were recognized and awarded for agency of the  
14 year. We have been providing mutual aid  
15 assistance to all of our neighbors, and we were  
16 available when we were called upon for assistance  
17 standbys, fire standbys, community affairs and  
18 all local drills. We have the resources, the  
19 personnel, ambulances, state-of-the-art equipment  
20 and the continued support of our Village  
21 governmental officials.

22 Should the annexation go through, I'm  
23 confident that we could continue to provide the  
24 same high quality of care within the same timely  
25 response that our community and residents have

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2 become accustomed to. I therefore implore you to  
3 vote yes on the annexation so those residents can  
4 receive the same services and other exceptionally  
5 outstanding services that are available for the  
6 residents of Kiryas Joel.

7 Thank you.

8 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Russ  
9 Kassoﬀ, followed by Andrew Buck.

10 MR. KASSOFF: Good evening. I'm Russ  
11 Kassoﬀ, Town of Monroe. We are being hurt. We  
12 are all being hurt, the people of Monroe, Orange  
13 County and even many in KJ.

14 This part of the Hudson Valley is mostly  
15 single-family rural residential. We are not New  
16 York or any big city. This area simply does not  
17 have the natural resources to support many more  
18 people than it already has.

19 With KJ's plans to expand and the growing  
20 density of the population, we face the danger of  
21 economic and environmental collapse of our  
22 established way of life.

23 These proposed annexations have already  
24 produced a severely negative impact on the  
25 property values and selling prices in the entire

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2 area, thus hurting all residents outside of the  
3 Hasidic community.

4 At the same time, inside KJ there are  
5 people who are not happy with their leadership  
6 and the limitations imposed on them. They too --

7 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Excuse me, Mr. Kassoff,  
8 Excuse me. I'm sorry.

9 Would you please keep it down in the back  
10 or please take it outside. Mr. Kassoff is  
11 speaking. Please give him the same courtesy you  
12 would expect if you were speaking.

13 I'm sorry. Continue.

14 MR. KASSOFF: Thank you.

15 At the same time, inside KJ there are  
16 people who are not happy with their leadership  
17 and the limitations imposed on them. They too  
18 moved up here to live in the country setting.

19 Instead they found themselves in crowded  
20 apartment buildings, some down wind of the stench  
21 of the slaughter house. I doubt they have the  
22 right to speak out in order to improve their  
23 unfavorable conditions.

24 We also know that KJ leadership annually  
25 receives our tax money from New York State

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2 specifically for low-income housing. This money  
3 has not reached the eligible people of KJ in  
4 twelve years. Where is this money?

5 Taxes. Our property taxes consist of  
6 three categories, town, county and school. This  
7 year 81 percent of the county property taxes will  
8 go to mandated Medicaid and social services.  
9 Without a breakdown, it is over 93 million  
10 dollars. With rapid population growth our county  
11 tax can only increase. *Response 3.2.11-32*

12 I also want to remind Monroe Town Board  
13 and the KJ Village Board that each time a  
14 property is removed from the tax rolls, be it a  
15 government building, a school, a place of  
16 worship, and is not replaced by a taxable parcel,  
17 the town tax goes up and is paid by the rest of  
18 us. This also hurts all of us, including the  
19 taxpaying residents of KJ.

20 Finally, people of Orange County are fast  
21 awakening to the destructive plans of the KJ  
22 leadership. We here are an all accepting  
23 community, always ready for productive  
24 discussions with good neighbors.

25 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.



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2 MR. KASSOFF: Instead, KJ leadership  
3 floods venomous propaganda within the KJ  
4 community against us, your non-Hasidic neighbors.  
5 KJ leadership is quick to sue anybody when it  
6 doesn't get it's way. On our side we would  
7 prefer to have more personal contact, to sit at a  
8 friendly table for a dialogue and find mutually  
9 acceptable solutions to our rising problems.  
10 One of the basic rights guaranteed to us  
11 by the Declaration of Independence is the pursuit  
12 of happiness. I'll tell you bluntly this does  
13 not make us happy.

14 MR. WELLS: Time is up.

15 MR. KASSOFF: I urge you to vote note to  
16 these annexation proposals. Thank you.

17 MR. WELLS: Andrew Buck, followed by  
18 Suzanne Gowen.

19 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Is Mr. Buck here?  
20 We'll wait a couple moments.

21 MR. WELLS: Andrew Buck.  
22 (No response.)

23 MR. WELLS: Susan Gowen.

24 SUPERVISOR DOLES: We'll wait for the next  
25 speaker then.

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2 MR. WELLS: Suzanne Gowen.

3 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Young lady, again just  
4 for the record, the mayor has left. If you would  
5 like, the record will reflect that as well as you  
6 can submit that in writing, but we will continue.

7 MS. GOWEN: Okay. Good evening. My name  
8 is Suzanne Gowen. I live in Orange County in a  
9 town called Monroe. A lot of people here tonight  
10 live in Monroe but they also live in the Village  
11 of Kiryas Joel, and the Village of Harriman, and  
12 the Village of Monroe which is all under the  
13 auspices of the Town of Monroe. We are all one  
14 community.

15 I have come here tonight to be on record  
16 as opposing annexation of land from the Town of  
17 Monroe into the Village of Kiryas Joel.

18 I was born and raised in Brooklyn, New  
19 York, and as a child I lived the city life but  
20 was also exposed to country life. The country  
21 was where my family would go on weekends and for  
22 vacations. It was how we escaped the heat of the  
23 city, the noise of the city, the dirt of the  
24 city, the crowds and the traffic. You always  
25 knew when you left the city. Visually the

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2 buildings were replaced by trees, sidewalks and  
3 parking lots were replaced by green pastures. It  
4 was always so exciting to spot a rabbit, to see a  
5 deer, see cows, birds, flowers and swim in a  
6 lake. It was great, it was different, and it  
7 felt peaceful. Those memories and those feelings  
8 obviously meant something to me, then and now.

9 I have been coming to Monroe for thirty  
10 years --

11 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Young lady, I'm sorry:  
12 I'm going to interrupt you.

13 For the folks in the back, I will ask you  
14 one more time to clear the back. Now we're going  
15 to clear the back. Excuse me. We're going to  
16 take care of this right now. For those in the  
17 back, either please sit down or I'm going to ask  
18 you now to please leave the area. We have a  
19 speaker here. We're going to listen to her.  
20 We're not going to listen to you. If you fail to  
21 understand that right now, we will escort you out  
22 of the building. Either have a seat or please  
23 exit and carry your discussion outside.

24 My apology. Please continue.

25 MS. GOWEN: I oppose this annexation. I

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2 do not want existing land in Monroe to be used to  
3 advance the extension -- extinction of our rural  
4 environment for which many of us are fighting so  
5 hard to keep. I believe these annexations to be  
6 an abuse of powers. A healthy community is a  
7 balanced community. This issue has caused  
8 political and personal conflict, frustration,  
9 anger and feelings of unbrotherly love. These  
10 are not the attributes of a healthy community.  
11 Therefore I do not want to be on record as one  
12 who knowingly and willingly sanctioned any action  
13 that I consider to be unfair, unjust or that  
14 would bring distress or despair to our community.  
15 Thank you.

16 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you very much.

17 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Eric Adam,  
18 followed by John Furst. Eric Adam.

19 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Please let the record  
20 show that Senator Eric Adam from New York City is  
21 here to speak. I apologize. My apology. I knew  
22 Senator Adam when he was the senator. Now  
23 borough president.

24 MR. ADAM: Thank you, Town of Monroe and  
25 the people of Kiryas Joel. I'm not here to speak

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2 on any specific action. I'm here to give you my  
 3 perspective as the borough president of Brooklyn.  
 4 I spent twenty-two years of my life wearing a  
 5 bulletproof vest, protecting the families and  
 6 children of the State as the New York City police  
 7 department. I'm well aware of the importance of  
 8 having communities thrive and grow. It's part of  
 9 the American way. It's part of the American  
 10 energy.

11 When I look at the representative that I  
 12 am in borough of Brooklyn that covers both  
 13 Queensbury and Borough Park, the large Hasidic  
 14 communities, there's one thing that does not  
 15 concern me. When gunshots go off at night and  
 16 bullets carve highways of death to our community,  
 17 I can be assured of one thing. It's not a member  
 18 of the Hasidic community. When you read the  
 19 countless number of cases of crimes, drugs, when  
 20 you read the violence and assaults, when you read  
 21 people who attempt to create havoc and terror in  
 22 our communities, there's only one thing I can be  
 23 sure of. It is not a member of the Hasidic  
 24 community.

25 When you talk about children, focus and

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2 paying attention, dedicated and committed. When  
 3 you talk about young people growing up to  
 4 continue the legacy of their family members and  
 5 provide a way, an opportunity for the future,  
 6 there's only one thing I'm sure of. It's not the  
 7 Hasidic community that's not doing that, it's the  
 8 Hasidic community that is doing that. I'm happy,  
 9 I'm happy to have them in the borough of  
 10 Brooklyn. I'm happy to have represented them  
 11 when I was in the State Senate. I'm happy to  
 12 represent them as the borough president. And you  
 13 should be happy to have them as members of your  
 14 community here in Kiryas Joel in the Town of  
 15 Monroe.

16 Let me conclude with this: There's  
 17 nothing more American than having the right to  
 18 expand. We did not stay in Florida or sixteen  
 19 colonies. We expanded throughout the entire  
 20 continent of America. We went from one shore to  
 21 another. It is anti-American to believe that  
 22 people do not have the right and the ability to  
 23 expand and grow. If people want to have children  
 24 and want to expand and allow themselves the  
 25 opportunity to grow, that is America. That's the

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2 American way. I'm proud to be part of America.  
 3 So the decisions you make -- I'm not going  
 4 to come in Monroe county just like I don't want  
 5 you to come to Monroe Avenue in Brooklyn and  
 6 tell me what to do, but I will give you a piece  
 7 of advice. You have a great community in the  
 8 Hasidic community. Let them grow and expand.  
 9 Thank you very much.

10 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you very much,  
 11 borough president.

12 May we have the next speaker, please.

13 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Tamie  
 14 Hollins.

15 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Ms. Hollins, give it a  
 16 moment if you would. There are a number of  
 17 people leaving the room at this point. Let's  
 18 give them time to leave.

19 Thank you, everyone. Please continue.

20 MS. HOLLINS: In the end anti-black,  
 21 anti-Jew and all forms of discrimination are  
 22 equivalent to the same thing, anti-humanism.  
 23 Shirley Chism.

24 Good evening. My name is Tamie Hollins  
 25 and I am from Newburgh, New York. I am here out

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2 of the concern for the rights of people here in  
 3 KJ, just like I've been for more than half my  
 4 life in the City of Newburgh where we experience  
 5 structural and systemic racism every day. The  
 6 anti-annexation forces are painting these good  
 7 people as criminals because many KJ residents are  
 8 poor. If you allow discrimination against people  
 9 on the basis of their income you will next allow  
 10 the eviction of poor people from the County all  
 11 together. Monroe, this is a slippery slope. And  
 12 for the sake of all humanity and in the name of  
 13 God, I beg you not to go there.

14 On election day of 2013 I watched how the  
 15 folks of KJ were intimidated and were prevented  
 16 from exercising their voting rights. I was  
 17 appalled and I called the Justice Department.

18 So I am here tonight in support of a  
 19 community that is being singled out for being  
 20 different, just like residents in my City of  
 21 Newburgh also. Folks, I am different too. And I  
 22 stand in solidarity with KJ.

23 In parting I just want to say if you can't  
 24 fly, then run. If you can't run, then walk. If  
 25 you can't walk, then crawl. But whatever you do

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2 KJ, you have to keep moving forward. Thank you.  
3 Martin Luther King.

4 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you very much.  
5 The next speaker, please.

6 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is John  
7 Furst, followed by Sandra Dunlap, followed by  
8 Patricia O'Dwyer.

9 MR. FURST: Good evening, Members of the  
10 Board. My name is John Furst, I'm an attorney --  
11 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Mr. Furst, one moment  
12 again. Just give a couple moments for everyone  
13 to settle down. Those who want to leave, let  
14 them leave. We'll give you those three minutes  
15 that are important to you and the rest of us.

16 MR. FURST: I won't be that long.

17 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you, sir,

18 MR. FURST: Again my name is John Furst,  
19 I'm an attorney at Catania, Mahon, Milligram &  
20 Rider. We represent the Town of Woodbury. We're  
21 going to submit some comments via a letter dated  
22 today with some exhibits in connection with the  
23 petitions themselves pursuant to General  
24 Municipal Law Article 17.

25 In short, the letter highlights some

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2 discrepancies and some inaccuracies in the  
3 petitions, and we ask that the Boards address  
4 these issues before issuing either one of their  
5 final determinations. Thank you.

6 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Sandra  
7 Dunlap. Sandra Dunlap, followed by Patricia  
8 O'Dwyer. Sandra Dunlap, Patricia O'Dwyer. Are  
9 either of them here?

10 MS. O'DWYER: Good evening. I'm Patricia  
11 O'Dwyer from Chester, New York. I'm am a  
12 descendent of the people who have been oppressed.  
13 It absolutely is heartbreaking to have to hear  
14 someone come to this microphone and say in almost  
15 and apologetic way that they're Jewish. Forgive  
16 me, I'm Jewish. Forgive me, I'm against what  
17 you're proposing. It shouldn't be. It should  
18 never be.

19 A gentleman spoke earlier to the points  
20 that I was going to raise about the planning for  
21 water and sewer, so I will not go into any great  
22 detail. Having read that portion of the DGEIS, I  
23 find a great deal of conflict. The most  
24 concerning part is that there is no movement,  
25 there is no action being taken in order to get a

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2 permit to tap into the Catskill Aqueduct from the  
 3 City of New York. I would hope that until such  
 4 time as there is a resolution on that issue, that  
 5 the County -- the county executive spoke this  
 6 evening and said that the pipeline should -- that  
 7 the annexation should not go through. I would  
 8 hope that he would also follow up with the County  
 9 considering not issuing any further construction  
 10 permits for the pipeline until such time as all  
 11 issues have been settled. I think it's in the  
 12 interest of both sides to have all the questions  
 13 addressed, especially the people who may or may  
 14 not be affected by the backup wells, which, if  
 15 you look at California, it could happen here. In  
 16 a drought and the number of people that would  
 17 have to be serviced by this annexation, it's very  
 18 concerning. Very concerning.

19 So I hope that all these questions are  
 20 raised, but in particular that no further permits  
 21 be issued by the County for the construction of  
 22 the pipeline until there's further clarification  
 23 on whether or not the city will entertain an  
 24 application and issue a permit to tap into the  
 25 Catskill Aqueduct.

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2 Thank you for your time.  
 3 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you very much.  
 4 Mr. Wells.  
 5 MR. WELLS: We're waiting for the next  
 6 list. Myra Kremnitz, followed by James Purcell.  
 7 SUPERVISOR DOLES: I believe it's Myra  
 8 Kremnitz. Legislator Kemnitz, is she here?  
 9 MS. KEMNITZ: Yes, I am. Good evening,  
 10 gentlemen. My name is Myra Kemnitz, I'm a  
 11 resident of Monroe. I'm also a county  
 12 legislator.

13 High among the issues that have not been  
 14 addressed directly is the Kiryas Joel  
 15 administration environmental concerns, and along  
 16 with that the burden that that puts on all the  
 17 neighboring communities around it.

18 The KJ Village administration regards the  
 19 rest of Orange County as a third-world entity  
 20 from which raw materials are extracted and into  
 21 which waste is dumped. Illustrating this is the  
 22 Kiryas Joel poultry processing plant which the  
 23 Orange County Water Authority report, with it's  
 24 own data and augmented with data from an outside  
 25 agency, documents the saline coming out of the

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2 water from the plant as being twenty times higher  
 3 than normal, and that the plant uses 14 tons of  
 4 salt daily, 4 tons of which wash onto -- into our  
 5 water every day. A total of 9 gallons of water  
 6 per bird for soaking and rinsing a bird three  
 7 times. Using the plant's advertised figure of  
 8 40,000 birds per day, that equals 360,000 gallons  
 9 per day, not counting clean-up water used by the  
 10 facility, all running into a tributary of the  
 11 Ramapo River and through Monroe. The Town of  
 12 Monroe, Village of Monroe and Village of Harriman  
 13 received this report and I was copied on it.  
 14 Mayor Weider immediately filed an Article 78 on  
 15 behalf of his residents in Harriman. The salt  
 16 water continues it's path to the machinery at the  
 17 Orange County sewer district number one eroding  
 18 it and then flows into the Ramapo River as  
 19 drinking water for the people in New Jersey.

20 This will not stop with annexation, and more  
 21 people and more chickens. *See comment from  
 Mr. Scaruzzone, Pg. 152 of  
 transcript*

22 Exacerbating a problem with the outflow at  
 23 the chicken plant is that Kiryas Joel and the  
 24 surrounding community already lack the ability to  
 25 respond to any emergency of a heavy thunder storm

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2 where the water runoff overwhelms the sewage  
 3 processing capacity and results in raw sewage  
 4 backup.  
 5 The EIS of the annexation must address the  
 6 New York State study on the impact of global  
 7 warming, increasing snowstorms and rainstorm  
 8 severity, and amounts of water runoff causing  
 9 problems for our current sewage storage disposal  
 10 methodologies.

11 The difference of the KJ administration  
 12 for environment concerns is also clear in what  
 13 they do not do. Kiryas Joel is alone among the  
 14 municipal entities in Orange County in not  
 15 recycling, thus putting an enormous unnecessary  
 16 burden on County landfills, and sooner or later  
 17 driving up the cost of operation of landfills for  
 18 the rest of us in the County.

19 MR. WELLS: Ma'am, your time is up.

20 MS. KEMNITZ: I will submit what I haven't  
 21 finished. Thank you.

22 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is James  
 23 Purcell, followed by Joel Peflin.

24 MR. PURCELL: Good evening, everyone. I'd  
 25 like to thank the Board in front of me for giving

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2 me the opportunity to speak on behalf of the  
3 Village of Monroe residents here in our wonderful  
4 community of Monroe.

5 First I'd like to start to say that my  
6 name is James Purcell, I'm the mayor of the  
7 Village of Monroe. Stage Road is our address.  
8 My name is Jim Purcell. I'm the mayor of the  
9 Village of Monroe, a SEQRA interested agency.  
10 Because of the proximity of the area to be  
11 annexed and the Village of Monroe, we have a keen  
12 interest in the environmental review of the  
13 annexation.

14 The Village of Monroe has no present  
15 position on the ultimate question of whether the  
16 annexation should be approved, however it is  
17 impossible even to make a reasonable  
18 determination in that regard because the Draft  
19 Generic Environmental Impact Statement does not  
20 adequately analyze the environmental impacts of  
21 the annexation. Indeed the substance of the  
22 DGETS is so lacking and so devoid of true  
23 substantive analysis that it does not satisfy the  
24 SEQRA standard necessary to begin the public's  
25 review. The DGETS needs to be redone, it needs to

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2 be reanalyzed and various environmental issues  
3 identified in the DGIS scope in a realistic and  
4 meaningful manner. The fundamental problem with  
5 the DGIS is that it either avoids or assumes away  
6 almost all of the environmental impacts that will  
7 result from the possible annexation. It is  
8 disingenuous to avoid studying real and vital  
9 impacts of the annexation, including the likely  
10 high density of rezoning of the annexed area by  
11 simple statements that the impacts will be the  
12 same with or without annexation. It is improper  
13 to avoid studying likely transportation, noise,  
14 air quality, school and other impacts by  
15 assumptions specifically stated in the DGIS. It  
16 is illegal to enforce that the annexed area will  
17 be occupied by Hasidic families where children  
18 will be schooled in private religious schools,  
19 where no motor vehicles will be used on the  
20 Sabbath or religious holidays and where women  
21 will not drive cars. SEQRA review can not easily  
22 be avoided and people's freedom of ideas and  
23 choices can not be easily controlled.

24 I'm going to be submitting my comments in  
25 a more detailed request of the Village of Kiryas



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2 Joel as lead agency and address these meaningful  
3 manner of various environmental impacts that will  
4 result in the proposed annexation. The people of  
5 the Village of Monroe, the community of Monroe  
6 and all others deserve it. Thank you for your  
7 time.

8 SUPERVISOR DOLES: The next speaker,  
9 please.

10 MR. WELLS: Joel Peflin, followed by Susan  
11 Shapiro, followed by Randy Clark.

12 MR. PEFLIN: Good evening. My name is  
13 Joel Peflin, I'm the school superintendent at the  
14 Kiryas Joel School District. We are representing  
15 the interested agency. I am pleased that I was  
16 able to assist in the gathering of some of the  
17 information used by Tim Miller Associates in the  
18 preparation of the DGEIS. My thanks go to Mr.  
19 Miller and his team for a very thorough,  
20 organized and detailed presentation.

21 I'll limit my comments to those issues  
22 presented in the DGIS relating to education. As  
23 a threshold issue it's been clearly documented  
24 that the municipal annexation has no impact on  
25 school district borders. Both the 507 and the

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2 164 acre annexation petitions are for land  
3 located in the Monroe-Woodbury School District.  
4 A separate action by the boards of education of  
5 both the Kiryas Joel School District and  
6 Monroe-Woodbury must be voted on in order to  
7 alter school district boundaries.

8 The DGIS presents four possible scenarios  
9 relating to school district impact from  
10 annexation, annexation or not, and with and  
11 without a school district boundary change. The  
12 DGIS clearly outlines both the fiscal and program  
13 implications of each scenario.

14 The elephant in the room often mentioned  
15 in the media and in blogs is the East Ramapo  
16 Central School District in Rockland County. For  
17 the last several years East Ramapo has been under  
18 the control of a Hasidic dominated board of  
19 education, and due to fiscal issues they have had  
20 to slash programs in their public schools and  
21 layed off numerous public school staff.

22 Unlike East Ramapo, we have a different  
23 dynamic. Since 1989 the leadership of Monroe-  
24 Woodbury School District supported the creation  
25 of the Kiryas Joel School District because they

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2 understood that the creation of the KJSD was  
3 better for both districts. That cooperation and  
4 support continues throughout today.

5 The Hasidic population continues to grow  
6 in parts of Monroe and in Woodbury outside of  
7 Kiryas Joel in the Monroe-Woodbury School  
8 District. As the DGIS makes clear in the ten-  
9 year projection, even without annexation and  
10 using existing town zoning, the Hasidic  
11 population of Monroe-Woodbury School District is  
12 projected to grow by an additional 7,356 people  
13 and 1,431 households. It's clear to me that an  
14 additional 3,000 voters in Monroe-Woodbury with  
15 different needs and vision for their school  
16 district does have the potential to become an  
17 East Ramapo situation except for one major  
18 difference. Monroe-Woodbury has the Kiryas Joel  
19 school district. The Monroe-Woodbury School  
20 Board has the option to relieve the pressure of  
21 serving this community in a way not available in  
22 East Ramapo. With the simple majority vote of  
23 the Monroe-Woodbury Board of Education they could  
24 adopt a resolution to adjust their borders under  
25 Ed Law 1507. For the sake of peace the Kiryas

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2 Joel School District Board has already adopted  
3 this resolution on May 13, 2014. A copy of the  
4 resolution and the law is part of the appendix.

5 Let me just wrap this up by saying that  
6 I'm not here to advocate but I must inform the KJ  
7 Village Board and the Monroe-Woodbury Town Board  
8 that only by voting yes on the annexation  
9 applications will the Monroe-Woodbury School  
10 Board have the ability to vote to alter their  
11 boundaries. A no vote on annexation will  
12 ultimately force the Monroe-Woodbury School  
13 District into a scenario where changing  
14 demographics of 3,000 Hasidic voters in the next  
15 decade could create a crisis currently happening  
16 in East Ramapo. We want peace and we continue to  
17 flourish as two separate school districts. Thank  
18 you.

19 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you, Mr. Peflin.  
20 MS. SHAPIRO: I'm Susan Shapiro, I'm here  
21 on behalf of my clients, Preserve Hudson Valley,  
22 the Allegros, the Doms and United Hudson Valley  
23 -- I mean United Monroe.

24 We have already started litigation against  
25 the DEC for naming Kiryas Joel as lead agency in

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2 this SEQRA review.

3 The proposed annexation isolates my  
4 clients. Their properties are in the northwest  
5 corner of the area. It would isolate their  
6 property the from the rest of the Town of Monroe,  
7 thereby reducing their services for everything  
8 from snow blowing to dog catching. It impairs  
9 their property values and impairs their freedom **FAEIS**  
10 to pursue life, liberty and the pursuit of **Response**  
11 happiness. **3.1-8**

12 We oppose the annexation of both the 507  
13 acres and the 164 acres because the DEIS -- the  
14 DEIS is fully insufficient and fatally flawed.  
15 Many people have already raised some of  
16 these issues. I'll just summarize. It does not  
17 consider impacts past 2025.

18 SUPERVISOR DOLES: I'm sorry, Ms. Shapiro.  
19 Could you please keep it down in the back.  
20 Please

21 MS. SHAPIRO: It fails to consider County-  
22 wide regional water supply. It fails to consider  
23 the Village's serial noncompliance with the Clean  
24 Water Act. It fails to consider discrimination  
25 regarding the Fair Housing Act, which I will go

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2 into further, and it violates the State Municipal  
3 Annexation Laws in multiple ways.

4 The goal of the Fair Housing Act is to  
5 promote open, integrated residential housing  
6 patterns and to prevent the increase of  
7 segregation and ghettos of racial groups. This  
8 annexation is a clear violation of Federal Law  
9 and of the Fair Housing Act. It is disingenuous  
10 for the claim that this Satmar group has to live  
11 all together so they can practice their religion.  
12 I'm Jewish and you only need thirteen people to  
13 form a minion. You can live anywhere in this  
14 country. Other racial groups have moved and live  
15 elsewhere. You should look at the Amish for an  
16 example. **FAEIS Chapter 2.3**

17 The reality is that the Kiryas Joel  
18 Village is 99.-- 99 percent white. It is wholly  
19 discriminatory. There is no other community in  
20 the country that is so white.

21 I ask the question if homes are built in  
22 this annexation area, how will they be available  
23 to all religions, to all Americans? What  
24 guarantees are in place? African Americans,  
25 Asians, Indians, Native Americans, Christians,

1 PUBLIC HEARING

2 Muslims, and Atheists will have an opportunity to  
3 buy in the annexated area?

4 Right now the historic truth is that you  
5 constantly violate the Fair Housing Act --

6 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

7 MS. SHAPIRO: -- by not advertising in any  
8 way for anyone outside of this community to know  
9 what's going on.

10 The Boards have an obligation. I do  
11 question whether Kiryas Joel ever did sign an  
12 oath of office. I've asked for copies and I have  
13 not received them.

14 The Annexation Law makes it very clear  
15 that you can not annex the land to change the  
16 zoning. Right now the zoning in KJ is there is  
17 no maximum density, whereas in Monroe it's one  
18 house per one acre.

19 MR. WELLS: Time is up.

20 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Ms. Shapiro, thank you  
21 very much.

22 MR. WELLS: Thank you very much.

23 I'd like to take a break to give the  
24 Stenographer a break for five minutes.

25 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Ladies and gentlemen,

1 we're going to take a five-minute break so the  
2 young lady can -- the transcriber can re-up her  
3 paper.

4 (A recess was taken.)

5 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Edward  
6 Scarvalone, Randy Clark and then Iris Conques.

7 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Sir, my apology for the  
8 delay. Obviously we needed to do whatever we  
9 had to do regarding the transcriptions. So  
10 thank you.

11 MR. SCARVALONE: Mr. Supervisor, Mr.  
12 Mayor, Board Members, my name is Edward  
13 Scarvalone and I'm here tonight on behalf of one  
14 of the largest private employers in Orange  
15 County, and that is the Kiryas Joel poultry  
16 processing plant. I'm a lawyer. I'm a partner  
17 in a firm called Willington, Scarvalone, and it's  
18 been my pleasure to be working with the owners  
19 and operators of KJ poultry for the last four-  
20 and-a-half years.

21 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Sir, please bring the  
22 microphone closer to you. Thank you.

23 MR. SCARVALONE: KJ Poultry is the largest  
24 kosher poultry plant in New York State. We are a  
25

1 privately-owned business located within the  
 2 Village. We provide kosher chicken and kosher  
 3 turkey to the New York Metro area and beyond.  
 4 We're known for the highest quality kosher  
 5 product on the market. We sell to leading  
 6 supermarkets, both kosher and non-kosher.  
 7 We also generate a tremendous amount of  
 8 economic activity within the County. We employ  
 9 over 250 employees, most of whom are from outside  
 10 the Village. They are -- they are non-Satmars,  
 11 non-Village residents. Our employees, in other  
 12 words, are -- they go to the same churches that  
 13 you go to, they go to the same movie theaters you  
 14 go to, their kids attend your schools, their  
 15 families with their wallets and pocketbooks are  
 16 themselves important sources of economic activity  
 17 within the County through their purchasing power,  
 18 and so too is KJ poultry.

19 When we hire for renovation projects or  
 20 construction projects in the plant we hire County  
 21 contractors, we hire plumbers, we hire  
 22 carpenters, masons, excavators, you name it.

23 We have a record of accomplishment in the.

24  
 25 Schmieder & Meister Inc. (845) 452-1988

1 environmental arena which I want to touch upon.  
 2 Our wastewater is treated thoroughly before it  
 3 goes to the local sewage treatment plant. In the  
 4 year 2011 we invested over \$1,000,000 in an  
 5 upgraded state-of-the-art wastewater treatment  
 6 plant designed by an expert consultant from  
 7 Virginia. That pre-treatment upgrade has proven  
 8 to be a full and thorough success resulting in  
 9 full compliance with our permit limitation.  
 10 Also in 2011 we invested in a major  
 11 stormwater control program to control our  
 12 stormwater so that we collect it before it runs  
 13 off into the KJ municipal stormwater system. And  
 14 perhaps even most interested in the annexation  
 15 discussion, we added technology to reduce our  
 16 water consumption by 40 percent. That's 4-0  
 17 percent. So we not only use 40 percent less  
 18 water than we did before, but we discharge 40  
 19 percent less wastewater to the sewage treatment  
 20 plant than we did before. Our total investment  
 21 in treatment technology over the last seven or  
 22 eight years is somewhere north of \$2,000,000.

23 Now, thanks to the --

24 MR. WELLS: Sir, I'm sorry. I'm going to

25 Schmieder & Meister Inc. (845) 452-1988

1

ask you to wrap up.

SUPERVISOR DOLES: The time is up, sir.

MR. SCARVALONE: We support the

annexation. Thank you for your time. Have a good evening.

SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you.

MR. WELLS: Randy Clark.

MR. CLARK: Good evening, Supervisor, Town Board, Members of Kiryas Joel, Mayor: Thank you for having this meeting and thank you for allowing us to speak tonight. It's still tonight, not good morning yet.

Anyway, Supervisor, your Councilman a few hours ago stated we are really in for it tonight, and we being the County would like to close with that if this annexation goes through.

First let me state I'm Randy Clark, I'm supervisor of the Town of Cornwall and I'm authorized to speak on behalf of the town. The reason I'm here is to make sure that everyone knows that the Town of Cornwall is opposed to the annexation, both of them, and the DGEIS.

Why the annexation? Well, earlier tonight it was stated that it was an intelligent decision

1

to annex. It is by far not an intelligent decision to annex either one of those parcels.

The taking of water of our municipality has been clearly stated by Mayor Brendan Coyne earlier, so I won't reiterate those issues. But we have a plan that we did in 2002. The town has growth prospects and it can't happen that you can take the water out of the Mountainville wells. A year ago you stated that it was going to be a secondary source. Recently, in the past few weeks, it has been declared a primary source.

Why is the DGEIS flawed? Well basically

FCRIS Response 3.S.7-1

it's like what was stated earlier by an individual, a wolf in sheep's clothing or a fox running the hen house. I'm amazed that I just heard that the chicken slaughter house is a wonderful environmental institution. According to thirty minutes of research this afternoon, there are many, many violations that KJ has not been a good neighbor on. October 23, 2014, violations of that slaughter house, \$330,000. January 15, 2015, a wetlands violation of \$50,000. Multiple local violations on building codes. No permit to start work. No permits to

1 continue work once discovered and cited. Illegal  
 2 walkway. That was October 31, 2008 the County  
 3 asked that walkway to be taken down.  
 4 Numerous education violations. You spoke  
 5 highly of the education. Well, in 2011 the  
 6 comptroller's office fined you \$276,000 in fines.  
 7 Most of the education --

8 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

9 MR. CLARK: Thirty seconds, Thank you.  
 10 Have been rewritten in Albany to accommodate KJ.

11 Lastly, given the public record of it's  
 12 legal and regulatory violations, the scoping  
 13 document must search out and explicitly list all  
 14 known environmental legal and regulatory  
 15 violations and justify why the Village of KJ  
 16 could possibly be trusted to analyze potential  
 17 negative impacts to natural resources or trusted  
 18 to undertake any mitigation measures.

19 Thank you for allowing me to speak. I  
 20 hope you all have a good evening.

21 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you, sir.

22 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Iris  
 23 Conques, followed by David Goldberger.

24 MS. CONQUES: My name is Iris Conques.

1 Thank you for letting me speak. I'm very  
 2 concerned about the wildlife that might be living  
 3 in the wooded area that's being considered for  
 4 the annexation. If this goes through and you  
 5 start building the high-density housing, their  
 6 habitat will be destroyed. Where will they go?  
 7 They have a right to live. Our purpose in life  
 8 is to care for this earth and all of the various  
 9 life forms in it. Chapter 3.6 and 3.6.4

10 Please vote no for the annexation. Thank  
 11 you.

12 SUPERVISOR DOLES: The next speaker.

13 MR. WELLS: Next is David Goldberger,  
 14 followed by Bob O'Neil and Israel Ekstein,  
 15 David Goldberger.

16 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Mr. Goldberger? The  
 17 next person, please.

18 MR. WELLS: Bob O'Neil.

19 MR. O'NEILL: Bob O'Neil, I'm a member of  
 20 the Town of Monroe Conservation Commission. I'm  
 21 also a resident of the Village of Monroe.

22 A lot of the things I wanted to talk about  
 23 tonight were already spoken about so I don't want  
 24 to repeat. I guess I want to get back to that

1 question several hours ago that Mr. Gelb posed  
 2 about what would we propose, what do we suggest?  
 3 Our suggestion is smart growth, but smart growth  
 4 is not uncontrolled growth. It's not  
 5 uncontrolled population growth. It's not  
 6 sustainable. Just because it's your right, and  
 7 I'm not denying it's your right to have as many  
 8 children as you want, it doesn't mean it's the  
 9 right thing to do. I mean I'm from an Irish  
 10 Catholic heritage which historically is a  
 11 tradition of Irish Catholics, tons of kids all  
 12 the time. My mom's family had eight kids, my dad  
 13 had -- I think they had five. I came from a  
 14 family of five. My wife is from seven. We have  
 15 two and there's a reason. We look at our  
 16 resources, we look at what's around us and we  
 17 decided -- it was our decision to have a smaller  
 18 family. It's because I'm not looking to my  
 19 government, my community to support me having ten  
 20 kids. I'd love to have ten kids. I decided not  
 21 to. That's a personal decision.

22 I don't care what community you're in, I  
 23 don't care what religion you are, uncontrolled  
 24 population growth within an area exhausts the  
 25

1 resources and it's bad for all of us, all  
 2 communities. You just -- it doesn't make sense  
 3 to overgraze lands. That's why we had the dust  
 4 bowl. It doesn't make any sense to have  
 5 uncontrolled growth and use up all the resources.  
 6 You do have the right to do it but you have --  
 7 you should do it in a smart and responsible way.  
 8 I must say I take offense to being called hateful  
 9 for pointing that fact out. It's a fact, so face  
 10 it.

11 And that's really -- that's really all I  
 12 have to say tonight. Thank you. I'm opposed to  
 13 the annexation.

14 MR. WEILS: Israel Ekstein, followed by  
 15 Ezreal Spitzer.

16 MR. EKSTEIN: Good evening, Mayor and all  
 17 officials. I'm a resident of the Town of Monroe  
 18 for almost forty years and I went through all  
 19 this happenings before also.

20 I just want to mention one episode that we  
 21 had in Middletown. We tried to make a factory  
 22 with 150 workers. We were also opposed for the  
 23 same reason we are opposed now.

24 But the main reason I'm here is to let you  
 25



1 know that I'm the person, I bought my twelve  
 2 acres years ago and started having kids. I said  
 3 okay, it's a one-acre lot that you can build a  
 4 house so I'll have as many children as I'm going  
 5 to have, I'm going to have room for them. Guess  
 6 what? Very soon after that they just changed the  
 7 zoning because we came in. They changed the  
 8 zoning to three acres zoned for a one-family lot.  
 9 Now keep in mind that the only reason why KJ is  
 10 so overbuilt -- all my children live there, they  
 11 have no choice where to go. The only reason why  
 12 it's overbuilt is because you did too stringent  
 13 to zoning laws just because of us.

14  
 15 And we came to Monroe, we had a lot of  
 16 problems, windows breaking, pulling out our  
 17 plumbing and so on and so forth. I never called  
 18 and I don't want to call it now but I understand  
 19 some people can not stand the way other people  
 20 live.

21 Now, I'm just going to answer for the  
 22 gentleman before who spoke. If not because your  
 23 predecessors that had eight and five and ten  
 24 children, you wouldn't be around. Much of you  
 25 people wouldn't be around today.

1 We experience a lot of problems in Seven  
 2 Springs Road, just not the problems that one of  
 3 the speakers spoke, I don't remember her name,  
 4 that because it's a -- it's a route to walk  
 5 there, they're afraid for people. I lived there  
 6 for almost forty years. I never seen anybody  
 7 bothered by our people or by anybody else. It's  
 8 very nice for a trail. There's no problem with  
 9 that. But how can you walk there --

10  
 11 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

12 MR. ERSTEIN: All the roads are broken and  
 13 the garbage are removed twice a week only if  
 14 there's no holiday. In KJ you're removing the  
 15 rubbish every day, and there's at least once a  
 16 month I can see the broom going around. By us  
 17 for six months they didn't even pick up the  
 18 leaves and we had -- we have all kinds. Please,  
 19 I know we care for the belugas, the bears.  
 20 Please care for our children too and approve this  
 21 annexation so we will have --

22 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you, sir.

23 MR. ERSTEIN: Thank you. Good night.

24 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Ezreal  
 25 Spitzer, followed by William Friedman.

1  
 2 MR. SPITZER: Good evening. My name is  
 3 Ezreal Spitzer. I'm honored to serve the Kiryas  
 4 Joel community as a fire volunteer for many  
 5 years. Over the period of time the needs of our  
 6 community have grown as our population has grown.  
 7 Every other community in the State -- my children  
 8 and those of many of my neighbors have not fled  
 9 other opportunities in other states but rather  
 10 have chosen to continue to live in this  
 11 community. As a father of five children I am  
 12 pleased to say I raised a family here, too.

13 The fire department that I help lead today  
 14 is very different from the one of many years ago  
 15 when we started with two trucks and 36 members.  
 16 As of today at our location we support six pieces  
 17 of apparatus, including a ladder truck with an  
 18 extension arm reaching 135 feet which is in fact  
 19 the only one in the County, a heavy rescue truck  
 20 and 3 engines and pumpers and a brush truck.  
 21 Last year we answered nearly to 1,600 calls for  
 22 service with an average response time of less  
 23 than two minutes. We have a certified force of  
 24 70 members prepared to battle structure fires and  
 25 respond to accidents and emergencies throughout

1  
 2 the community. We train repeatedly and our  
 3 department is committed to the community it's  
 4 serving.

5 I'm here this evening to let you know that  
 6 we have responded to growth in the past, and as  
 7 our community continues to grow, the very likely  
 8 scenario that for many of us a few more  
 9 grandchildren arrive, the Kiryas Joel fire  
 10 department will be prepared to respond to the  
 11 needs of it's community irrespective of whether  
 12 boundaries of our Village expand or remain  
 13 constant. Thank you.

14 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is William  
 15 Friedman. William Friedman, followed by Judith  
 16 Crelin Mayle.

17 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Mr. Friedman? Is there  
 18 a Mr. Friedman?

19 The next speaker, please.

20 MR. WELLS: Judith Crelin Mayle.

21 MS. CRELIN MAYLE: Good evening. My name  
 22 is Judith Crelin Mayle and I'm a partner with the  
 23 firm of Thomas, Joe, Petrigo & Mayle and we  
 24 provide legal counsel for the Monroe-Woodbury  
 25 Central School District.

1 I'd first like to say that the  
 2 superintendent and the board would wish to be  
 3 here this evening but unfortunately they had a  
 4 board meeting this evening and they could not  
 5 leave that for their own -- for this meeting.  
 6 Briefly, the board would like me to put on  
 7 the record some of the comments that they will be  
 8 submitting in writing in regards to both the  
 9 DGEIS as well as the 507 acre and 164 acre  
 10 annexation petitions.

11 As to the DGIS, we echo the concerns that  
 12 you've heard this evening from the county  
 13 executive and other articulate speakers as to the  
 14 flaws of the DGIS. We believe that the DGIS,  
 15 when it is reviewed, does not adequately address  
 16 all the impacts and issues, nor does it rely on  
 17 any substantive or articulable type of data that  
 18 can support the conclusions.

19 Turning to the actual petitions  
 20 themselves. It is our position that there are  
 21 numerous irregularities in the petitions such  
 22 that they do not comply with the requirements of  
 23 Article 17 of the General Municipal Law. We  
 24 believe that as an example there are  
 25

1 irregularities when you compare one petition to  
 2 another. When you review the actual signatures  
 3 of people on the properties, while they may be  
 4 very similar from one petition to the other as to  
 5 the exact properties, curiously the name of the  
 6 signator changes as you go from one petition to  
 7 the next. That is only one example of the  
 8 significant irregularities that as a matter of  
 9 law creates those petitions as defective.

10 Additionally, we turn to the impact that  
 11 this particular petition will have on the school  
 12 district. While it's been noted that there are  
 13 significant financial obligations of the district  
 14 as to providing services to the children no  
 15 matter where they come from as long as they live  
 16 in the district, the facts that are presented  
 17 that somehow the increased housing will offset  
 18 those financial impacts are completely erroneous  
 19 and disingenuous. If anything, we are concerned  
 20 that such an increase will have detrimental  
 21 impacts on the budgets of the district to the  
 22 point that it may even cause a diminution in  
 23 State aid.

24 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

1  
 2 MS. CRELIN MAYLE: Specifically because  
 3 there is an increase in the valuation of the  
 4 property without an increase in the residential  
 5 -- in the student population, it appears that the  
 6 district may be wealthier than it actually is and  
 7 will negatively impact that State aid.

8 For all of those reasons and more we ask  
 9 that you seriously consider these petitions,  
 10 consider the flaws and reject the petitions as a  
 11 matter of law. Thank you.

12 SUPERVISOR DOLES: The next speaker,  
 13 please.

14 MR. WELLS: The next speaker, Legislator  
 15 Aron Wieder, followed by Judy Berger, followed by  
 16 Sam Kaufman.

17 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Legislator Wieder,  
 18 thank you very much.

19 MR. WIEDER: Good evening, Members of the  
 20 Board . Good evening, Mr. Supervisor, Councilmen,  
 21 Mr. Mayer, Village Trustees. My name is Aron  
 22 Wieder, I'm a Rockland County legislator.

23 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Sir, please bring the  
 24 microphone closer to you. Thank you.

25 MR. WIEDER: I'm here tonight observing

1  
 2 throughout the last couple of hours now, and  
 3 unlike everyone else I go away very pleased. If  
 4 you remove the tension, if you remove the  
 5 passion, if you remove the rederick, this has  
 6 been a very healthy debate. Throughout our  
 7 American process in our history, for example the  
 8 Constitution, it was a much more heated debate  
 9 and the end result is we got the greatest  
 10 document in our time. Throughout the 19th  
 11 century, the 20th century our national debate,  
 12 there were many, many, many issues debated, much  
 13 more tense than tonight. And in the end the  
 14 result, the outcome was where we are still the  
 15 greatest country in the history of mankind.

16 Throughout the night we've heard both  
 17 sides of the issue. People articulated their  
 18 argument. If you go outside the room you will  
 19 see people talking to each other, people from  
 20 both sides of the issue. That's refreshing.  
 21 That's healthy. That's what democracy is all  
 22 about. That's why I go away tonight very pleased  
 23 that this process has taken place. And at the  
 24 end of the -- at the end of the day, at the end  
 25 of the night, at the end of this process, all of

1  
 2 you will make the right decision, the just  
 3 decision.

4 Martin Luther King once said we may have  
 5 all come on different boats but we are all in the  
 6 same ship now. People of KJ are going nowhere.  
 7 The people of Orange County, United Monroe are  
 8 going nowhere. They will learn to live side by  
 9 side in peace and harmony, I have a dream.  
 10 Thank you very much.

11 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you, sir. The  
 12 next speaker.

13 MR. WELLS: Judy Berger.

14 MS. BERGER: Good evening. Good evening.  
 15 My name is Judy Berger, I'm a lifetime resident  
 16 in the Village of Kiryas Joel. Every now and  
 17 then I'm called upon to volunteer at the Aishes  
 18 Chayil Women's Services Center. I'm passionate  
 19 about newborns and revel in the joy of caring for  
 20 them. I therefore appreciate if the prospective  
 21 of this postpartum convalescent facility were a  
 22 part of annexation. Aishes Chayil is a 162- bed  
 23 facility which provides a multitude of post-  
 24 partum services for the new moms, their newborns  
 25 and families. Aishes Chayil serves over 3,000

1  
 2 mothers annually. Although my daily schedule is  
 3 quite full, with a full-time job and a house of  
 4 three children, and I still cherish the time I'm  
 5 privileged to spend in a joyous environment as  
 6 such where new life is celebrated. When I look  
 7 at the faces of those infants it brings back  
 8 memories of my younger siblings at that age who  
 9 are now fathers and mothers with children of  
 10 their own. I envision them attending village  
 11 schools, synagogues and patronizing village  
 12 businesses. I wonder will the reswrath succeed  
 13 in preventing them from remaining in the  
 14 community with their parents and for some even  
 15 their grandparents who were born and raised. I  
 16 look into those eyes and I wonder who will decide  
 17 the place of residency, and I realize that these  
 18 children's most basic American right is being  
 19 challenged. If their right to choose where to  
 20 live is taken from them, what other rights will  
 21 they try to take away next?

22 What I find most ironic is that well over  
 23 100 employees of Aishes Chayil are from outside  
 24 Kiryas Joel. So our neighbors are essentially  
 25 saying pay us to take care of your newborns but

1  
 2 once they grow up they'll just have to leave.  
 3 Natural growth is a fact of life. To ignore it  
 4 would be irresponsible. Thank you.

5 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Sam  
 6 Kaufman, followed by Samuel Weinberger.

7  
 8 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Mr. Kaufman, are you  
 9 here?  
 10 MR. WELLS: The speaker after that, Laura  
 11 Rainoff.

12 MR. KAUFMAN: Good evening. I live on  
 13 Seven Springs Road, directly adjoining  
 14 undeveloped woodland, and as such I'm pleased to  
 15 take this opportunity to make my voice heard  
 16 amongst all the hype and hoopla why I approve of  
 17 the annexation.

18 Number one, security. The issue of no  
 19 lighting and no sidewalks and minimal presence of  
 20 law enforcement as of forementioned, there is a  
 21 serious security situation on our streets. In  
 22 the twelve plus years that we have lived in the  
 23 Town we have had axe thrown at our front door, we  
 24 have had a beer bottle smashed in our kitchen  
 25 window, we have had our doorbell rung in the dead

1  
 2 of the night by a group of rowdy youths, and  
 3 slurs have been directed by passing motorists at  
 4 our children when walking to and from Sabbath  
 5 services. The quickest response to date by the  
 6 State Police was two hours and forty minutes. No  
 7 kidding.

8 Number two is a drainage issue. There are  
 9 no catch basins on most of our streets and every  
 10 major rainstorm causes street flooding.  
 11 Remaining large puddles harbor droves of  
 12 mosquitoes. I have spoken to the highway  
 13 department multiple times about this over the  
 14 years. They once sent down a crew and all they  
 15 were able to say was oh, water flows down and  
 16 that's the lowest point. Mm'hm'.

17 Regarding street lighting I must say for  
 18 the record that Councilman, I believe his name  
 19 was Jim Rogers came down at night especially to  
 20 meet me many years ago and he agreed it's "dark  
 21 as hell" but unfortunately the Town only installs  
 22 street lights at street intersections.

23 Another fine example of the street  
 24 maintenance was when the roads were resurfaced  
 25 last time, the loose gravel was never removed

1 despite repeated requests by myself and my  
 2 neighbors to Town officials. Don't ask me for  
 3 the minutes or anything of that nature, I'm just  
 4 a citizen. I spoke to the supervisor, I spoke to  
 5 the assistants. Shortly thereafter fresh yellow  
 6 lines were painted right on top of that gravel,  
 7 which of course became invisible after a week or  
 8 two.  
 9 Then there's the issue of open space,  
 10 which was actually the very reason we moved to  
 11 Seven Springs in the first place. That open  
 12 space for some reason attracts a lot of dumping,  
 13 Two years ago my neighbors and I lobbied the Town  
 14 for months until they finally sent a clean-up  
 15 crew of four. That took the better part of a  
 16 week to haul away several tons of refuse.  
 17 I invite all the people present here  
 18 tonight to take a drive down the undeveloped  
 19 section of Seven Springs Road.  
 20 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.  
 21 MR. KAUFMAN: It again resembles a dump.  
 22 I'm talking about that very section, the section  
 23 of the Highlands Trail that somebody spoke about  
 24 before which I love to walk on with my wife and  
 25

1 kids. To my own personal observation it hosts  
 2 about a maximum of twenty people a year. You can  
 3 find every imaginable cast of human habitation,  
 4 including TV sets and a kitchen sink. We  
 5 appreciate the open space and nature affiliated  
 6 woodpeckers, and humming birds, and bears just as  
 7 much as everyone else does, but if the Town is  
 8 unwilling or unable to maintain it in a safe and  
 9 clean way --  
 10 MR. WELLS: Time is up.  
 11 MR. KAUFMAN: -- development may be a  
 12 better alternative.  
 13 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you.  
 14 MR. KAUFMAN: God Bless us all and God  
 15 Bless the United States.  
 16 MR. WEINBERGER: Good evening. My name is  
 17 Samuel Weinberger. I would like to start with I  
 18 do understand the good neighbors sitting on my  
 19 right side. I do understand every word that they  
 20 said. I have passion for them.  
 21 One thing, they're missing some  
 22 information. I'll tell you a story. In '84 my  
 23 father -- if you're talking about my father, he  
 24 was involved, he was working for the city, he  
 25

1 helped the administration and other elected  
 2 officials. He was helping not only Hasidic Jews  
 3 and not only blacks, also a full community. He  
 4 also used to help -- help everybody, no  
 5 difference of race or whatever. In 1948 he was  
 6 in the streets of Manhattan, he had the business  
 7 there. Got then former Governor Carey, in 1984  
 8 found he was there, he shook the hands to  
 9 Governor Carey, Carey shook -- Governor Carey  
 10 shook the hands for him and Governor Carey was --  
 11 and Goervnor Carey's wife also wanted to shake  
 12 hands with my father, and of course my father, as  
 13 somebody else speak previously, didn't understood  
 14 the comment or the Village of KJ why the saying a  
 15 whole list of things who may touch so and so.  
 16 Governor Carey understood that his wife is not  
 17 aware of what the Hasidic community is. He  
 18 explained for his newly wed wife what's all about  
 19 the Hasidic community and neighbors. When you  
 20 understand our lifestyle, you look with your good  
 21 hearts what it is, you'll understand us. When  
 22 the dust will settle, and the dust will settle in  
 23 twenty years from now when all of our neighbors  
 24 will look back and see that it went through the  
 25

1 annexation.  
 2 Let me tell you we -- for me personal, it  
 3 shouldn't be annexation. In back of where I live  
 4 there's undeveloped area that I personally enjoy,  
 5 I could walk there with my wife and kids. It's  
 6 an undeveloped area. If the annexation process  
 7 will not go through I'll have all those land  
 8 there for my sake.  
 9 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds, sir.  
 10 MR. WEINBERGER: But it's not all about  
 11 own sake. When you look back years from now and  
 12 you see I helped those children. I personally  
 13 have twelve children and I do remember when I --  
 14 when I started that my wife couldn't -- my wife  
 15 had twelve kids, eight c-sections. She wasn't  
 16 able to without the help of my mother-in-law.  
 17 And my twelve kids needs my help. And when  
 18 they're not in our area they can't have my help.  
 19 My oldest --  
 20 MR. WELLS: Time is up, sir.  
 21 MR. WEINBERGER: -- son has five kids and  
 22 they can't survive without my help. And my own  
 23 five children --  
 24 MR. WELLS: Thank you, sir.  
 25



1  
2 MR. WEINBERGER: -- are paying rent. And  
3 I hope the annexation process will go through and  
4 we'll be able to have low income -- not low  
5 income, pay high value rent but not very much.  
6 Thank you very much.

7 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Laura  
8 Rainoff, followed by Susan Roth, Joseph Kaufman.  
9 MS. RAINOFF: My name is Laura Rainoff, I  
10 live in the Town of Tuxedo. I address  
11 specifically the incompleteness --

12 SUPERVISOR DOLES: I'm sorry. If you  
13 would please tone it down. Let the speaker have  
14 her time as everyone else has. I'm sorry.

15 MS. RAINOFF: My name is Laura Rainoff, I  
16 live in the Town of Tuxedo. The DGEIS for the  
17 507 and 164 acre petitions is a sham because it  
18 does not address the full buildout of housing  
19 that KJ has stated publicly that it intends for  
20 either proposed annexation. *Response 3.2.10-1*

21 I have time only to address specifically  
22 the incompleteness of the DGEIS with respect to  
23 the impacts that either of the illegal annexation  
24 petitions will have on the Monroe-Woodbury  
25 Central School District, the very reason that my

1 family moved to Tuxedo. We do not have to  
2 speculate as to what impact the annexations,  
3 either one of them, would have on our school  
4 district. The East Ramapo School District in  
5 Rockland County shows exactly what would be in  
6 store. This fact has nothing to do with the  
7 freedom of religion or anti-Semitism or animosity  
8 of folks who look, act or behave differently than  
9 me. It has nothing to do with any of that. It  
10 has to do with a population explosion, a huge  
11 population of folks that are not interested in  
12 supporting the public school system, except of  
13 course for the funding that specifically supports  
14 their private religious schools and

15 transportation for their special needs students,  
16 which taxes I happily pay. Happily. *FGEIS Chapter 2.3*

17 When I was in high school in Rockland  
18 County, the East Ramapo School District was  
19 excellent, including advanced placement courses,  
20 drama, music, sports. Now, after the local  
21 Hasidic community has voted themselves onto the  
22 school board, public school students can not meet  
23 New York State graduation requirements within  
24 four years because insufficient classes are  
25

1 offered. There are no music, art, sports or  
 2 advantaged placement courses. The formerly  
 3 excellent East Ramapo School District has been  
 4 eviscerated. School buildings have been closed  
 5 and not used for education purposes.  
 6 Where in the DGEIS is the analysis of the  
 7 devastating impacts of development of the  
 8 proposed annexations on the Monroe-Woodbury  
 9 Central School District? It's not there. It is  
 10 very interesting to me that in nine minutes my  
 11 three -- the three for the lawyer, for the school  
 12 district and the three for the representative of  
 13 the KJ school district, in this nine minutes  
 14 there are more facts and more analysis, brief and  
 15 superficial as it is, than in your report. You  
 16 folks, both of you, need to tell this  
 17 organization to do a full factual analysis of the  
 18 actual impacts on the school district, of the  
 19 actual high-density housing impact that will  
 20 happen with either of the annexations.  
 21 MR. WELLS: Thank you. Your time is up.  
 22 Susan Roth. The Next speaker is Susan Roth,  
 23 Joseph Kaufman.  
 24 MR. KAUFMAN: Ladies and gentlemen, my

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1 name is Joseph Kaufman. I was born and raised in  
 2 Montreal Canada in neighborhoods inhabited by  
 3 various ethnicities, and I enjoyed my life  
 4 despite not living in a Jewish village. As the  
 5 annexation debate heated up I realized that many  
 6 KJ residents live under the myth that only within  
 7 the KJ borders will they enjoy life. As a  
 8 financial advisor I want to disprove this myth  
 9 and prove it does not take a village for KJ  
 10 residents to live their lifestyle. I'm convinced  
 11 that KJ residents can enjoy their lifestyle  
 12 uninhibited in Monroe and Woodbury. Awhile back  
 13 I accepted a Yiddish language flyer from a United  
 14 Monroe member in which they invited us to leave  
 15 the KJ ghetto and buy homes in the greater Monroe  
 16 area. I agreed. We can expand our community  
 17 without having to go through the hassle of  
 18 annexation.  
 19 Some say annexation is needed to bring  
 20 down housing. But that's not true. Affordable  
 21 homes are available in the neighboring towns, and  
 22 United Monroe pledged to welcome us with open  
 23 arms.  
 24 In recent years many KJ residents saw the

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1  
2 light and bought homes in the surrounding towns.  
3 I'm actively working with 113 prospective buyers  
4 to help them find suitable homes in the greater  
5 Monroe area. There are many more waiting in the  
6 wings.

7 I'm convinced that if annexation is not  
8 approved, the entire Town of Monroe, Woodbury,  
9 Blooming Grove would become more hospitable to  
10 the Hasidic community and affordable housing  
11 would be plentiful for our growing community. I  
12 believe it's for the greater good because  
13 thousands of families need homes, not annexation.  
14 Thank you.

15 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you, sir.

16 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Fran  
17 Perchick, followed by Yehuard Landau.

18 MS. PERCHICK: Good evening. I'm Fran  
19 Perchick of Monroe. I see this annexation  
20 attempt as a simple matter really. In section  
21 3.1 of the DGEIS regarding land use, as cited in  
22 3.11, zoning, I quote, "The Village of Kiryas  
23 Joel provides it's own policies for land use that  
24 are not subject to oversight by the Town." This  
25 is the true goal of Kiryas Joel, to annex

1 additional land so that it is not subject to  
2 outside oversight. This is a clear case of  
3 Kiryas Joel officials and landowners trying to  
4 circumvent zoning laws. It is an attempt to get  
5 around local environmental code. The 507 acres  
6 proposed for annexation to Kiryas Joel is simply  
7 about changing zoning with little regard for  
8 following local laws, to create housing that is  
9 not currently allowed in the current code.

10 There is acknowledgement throughout the  
11 DEIS that there will be development. This is not  
12 in dispute. Appropriate, law abiding,  
13 responsible development is not an issue. But  
14 Kiryas Joel will not develop within the law, will  
15 not develop with environmental sensitivity, will  
16 not develop with sustainability nor with a smart  
17 growth plan. The Village has an  
18 extensive track record of serious environmental  
19 violations. There is no reason to believe that  
20 if Kiryas Joel has sole oversight of new land,  
21 that they will follow environmental laws. In  
22 fact, there's clear evidence that KJ shows total  
23 disregard for environmental laws. Look at the  
24 noncompliance of the KJ sewage treatment plant.  
25

1  
 2 Look at the terrible violations of the chicken  
 3 processing plant directly into a tributary of the  
 4 Ramapo River.

5 I and my neighbors can personally cite  
 6 examples of landowners from Kiryas Joel violating  
 7 various environmental, stormwater, erosion, tree  
 8 preservation and vegetation town code without  
 9 regard to environmental impacts and without  
 10 regard to their neighbors.

11 The DGEIS cites expected increases in  
 12 sewage effluents. This was discussed earlier  
 13 this evening. The Ramapo River can not remain  
 14 healthy and receive additional sewage.

15 MR. WELLS: Thirty minutes -- thirty  
 16 seconds.

17 MS. PERCHICK: We must protect the Ramapo  
 18 River, the Ramapo watershed and the aquifer from  
 19 pollutants that will impact the drinking water  
 20 quality in this area as well as our neighbors'  
 21 drinking water in Rockland and Bergen Counties.

22 I just want to address smart growth for a  
 23 moment. Smart growth considers impacts to an  
 24 entire region. It considers available resources.  
 25 It considers everyone's needs and not just those

1  
 2 of a particular community. Smart growth is  
 3 sustainable. This annexation plan --

4 MR. WELLS: Time is up.

5 MS. PERCHICK: -- is not smart. I'm just  
 6 going to read one more sentence. It's not  
 7 sustainable and it is an attempt to forever  
 8 change the rural residential nature of this  
 9 region.

10 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you.

11 MS. PERCHICK: I urge you --

12 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Let her finish.  
 13 Please.

14 MS. PERCHICK: I urge you to vote no on  
 15 the annexation. Thank you.

16 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you. The next  
 17 speaker.

18 MR. WELLS: Yehuard Landau. Mr. or Ms.  
 19 Landau. Kate Ahmadi.

20 SUPERVISOR DOLES: We're approaching  
 21 midnight. I just want to thank everyone from the  
 22 public. In case I do forget, I want everyone to  
 23 know our gratitude, the Board Members and the  
 24 Village as well, everyone here, for doing this.  
 25 It's an act of faith and your beliefs. Hopefully

1 at the end of this it will be a faith in each  
 2 other's ability to be able to work together to  
 3 find a good solution.  
 4

5 That being said, the next speaker is?

6 MR. WELLS: Kate Ahmadi.

7 MS. AHMADI: Kate Ahmadi, I'm a citizen of  
 8 Blooming Grove. Can you hear me? I would like  
 9 to thank you. I would like to speak about the  
 10 environment and about Schunnemunk Mountain, but I  
 11 can't figure out what parts of it are included so  
 12 I'm going to speak about Gonzaga Park which is  
 13 Schunnemunk Mountain. Gonzaga Park is a very,  
 14 very small park. I believe it's only about 23  
 15 acres. And from what the newspapers say, 7 acres  
 16 might be taken as part of the annexation. I  
 17 would like to say that I'm opposed to that taking  
 18 of almost one third of what is already a very,  
 19 very small park. *DAE'S Chapter 3.7 and FAE'S Chapter 3.7.13*

20 The most important thing about it is that  
 21 the small park has had a long history. It  
 22 belonged to the Catholic church, then it belonged  
 23 to the State of New York who set it up as a park,  
 24 they cleaned it and took out some of the  
 25 buildings which were very, very vandalized. So

1 vandalized that the night when they took down the  
 2 large building, the man who took down the  
 3 building slept there because he said seven groups  
 4 came in that night to further vandalize the large  
 5 building in Gonzaga. So getting the park  
 6 established in Gonzaga has a long history, too.  
 7 The most important part of it is that when the  
 8 State of New York passed it on to the County as a  
 9 county park, which is what it is now, in 2001,  
 10 the deed stated that the area had to be -- was  
 11 stipulated to remain forever a park. So if this  
 12 is to be annexed, that's a violation of the deed  
 13 of the park and perhaps the park would revert to  
 14 the State. I'm not sure but according to the  
 15 deed that's what would happen. So I would like  
 16 to be on record that that's important, that this  
 17 is a violation of the deed, annexation of the  
 18 very small park.

19 The last thing that's important about the  
 20 park is that it's in the area between KJ and not  
 21 KJ, if you want to say it that way. It has been  
 22 an area where people can meet, where people can  
 23 hike. People Hasidm and not Hasidm have been  
 24 hiking there for years peacefully regardless of  
 25

1  
2 what clothes they wear or whatever concern.

3 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

4 MS. AHMADI: I would like to think that it  
5 can stay that way and it will be a place where  
6 other kinds of activities will be continued, such  
7 as education about nature which also has been  
8 happening in New York, and games being played and  
9 other park activities have been happening with  
10 all kinds of people involved. It's my hope that  
11 that will continue and we won't lose that. Thank  
12 you. *DAEIS Chapter 3.7 #3.7.5*  
*FGIS Response 3.7-3*

13 MR. WELLS: Thank you. Yehuard Landau.  
14 Noel Moloney. Noel Moloney. Jim Freiband. Terry  
15 Hughes. Joseph Landau .

16 MR. LANDAU: Good evening. My name is  
17 Joseph Landau, I live in Kiryas Joel for ten  
18 years. I currently serve as administrator of the  
19 congregation with over 3,000 members who reside  
20 in the Village of Kiryas Joel, and I would look  
21 to speak in support of the annexation.

22 Having the opportunity to serve the  
23 public, I very often come across people  
24 complaining that they can not support their  
25 religious and cultural needs due to high rent

1  
2 prices. In recent years the cost of renting or  
3 buying a home in the Village of Kiryas Joel has  
4 continued to rise very quickly due to a lack of  
5 available land on which to build new homes.  
6 People, including myself, rightfully complain  
7 purchasing a four-bedroom condo in our Village,  
8 nevermind a private home, is now beyond the reach  
9 of most of the middle income community. Supply  
10 and demand is the prime driver of these booming  
11 prices. We just do not have enough land to  
12 provide housing for our growing community unless  
13 we start building large urban apartment complexes  
14 far bigger than we already have, which no one  
15 wants.

16 Now let me just digress for a minute and  
17 comment on our friends over at United Monroe and  
18 their repeated blasting of our community for  
19 having large families. Did you guys know that  
20 the American west was won by America farmers  
21 building not just huge farms but huge families?  
22 Strong, healthy and large families are what make  
23 America what it is. The only question here is  
24 not why we have large families, but why you  
25 don't. Attacking us for having large families

1 sounds a little too much like the communitis in  
 2 China where couples are only allowed to have one  
 3 kid each. Children are a blessing. In our  
 4 community most of us raise large families and  
 5 they're raised in large families. I personally  
 6 grew up in a family of seventeen. Yes, you heard  
 7 that right. My wife comes from a family of  
 8 twelve. And we are proud of it. A large family  
 9 is the best place for a kid to grow up. A large  
 10 family is a social laboratory where you learn how  
 11 to get along with others from the youngest age,  
 12 where you learn to share and not act spoiled,  
 13 where you acquire sensitivity to others. It's  
 14 also the best social guarantee that you won't  
 15 turn to drugs, alcohol, crime or violence as none  
 16 of my immediate family has.  
 17 Back to the annexation. Our community  
 18 members, like everyone in this great country,  
 19 deserve more.

20  
 21 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

22 MR. LANDAU: They deserve to own their own  
 23 homes, they deserve to have their children live  
 24 nearby in the same town where they grew up in and  
 25 they deserve what they are asking for tonight,

1 the approval of the annexation. Thank you.  
 2  
 3 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Matt  
 4 Higgins, followed by Chaim Friedman.  
 5 MR. HIGGINS: Good evening. It's still  
 6 evening I hope. Matt Higgins, I'm from  
 7 Woodbury.  
 8 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Mr. Higgins, would you  
 9 like to adjust the --  
 10 MR. HIGGINS: Thank you.  
 11 SUPERVISOR DOLES: If it's more  
 12 comfortable for you.  
 13 MR. HIGGINS: Thank you. I'm not trying  
 14 to be judgmental here but I thought it was part  
 15 of the Satmar religion to be good, pleasant  
 16 neighbors. This is no way to be good neighbors.  
 17 Annexing land from unwilling neighbors is not only  
 18 being bad neighbors, it's anti-American.  
 19 I moved to the area for the beauty of the  
 20 area and fairly low taxes. Losing control of  
 21 zoning is unneighborly, unjust, un-American and I  
 22 oppose the annexation.  
 23 I wanted to speak about the scoping. The  
 24 draft scoping outline indicates Monroe KJ  
 25 Consulting, LLC as petitioner applicant. If

1 ownership is changed it should be clarified and  
 2 corrected. Signatures should be validated by the  
 3 County Board of Elections. We must have  
 4 certification attached by the assessor by law as  
 5 well.  
 6

7 I also wanted to ask why is Woodbury  
 8 written as being annexed yet not being notified  
 9 of any lands being listed this petition? How is  
 10 that legit? Kiryas Joel's fictitious in claiming  
 11 no condos, no affect on water, sewer, traffic or  
 12 runoff.

13 And because I only have about a minute  
 14 left to talk about three annexations, I'm going  
 15 to try to hit a few points. Seventeen years ago  
 16 I ate fish from the Ramapo River. It tasted like  
 17 poop then. That's coo-coo or doo-doo. Before  
 18 the Kiryas Joel sewer treatment plant. Today,  
 19 forget it. The Ramapo is overcapacity for  
 20 sewage. The Kiryas Joel sewer treatment plant  
 21 flows into the stream and there's no more room  
 22 for all of this sewage. Who is going to pay for  
 23 the sewer treatment plant? How much is the sewer  
 24 treatment plant going to cost? How much is it  
 25 going to cost for this whole thing with all the

1 Medicaid that's received by Kiryas Joel, which it  
 2 used to be approximately 91 million. Last I  
 3 heard it was 158 million for the cost of Medicaid  
 4 to Kiryas Joel. This makes it expensive for all  
 5 Orange County residents.  
 6

7 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

8 MR. HIGGINS: This is a County issue.

9 MR. WELLS: Thank you.

10 MR. HIGGINS: Thank you.

11 MR. WELLS: Chaim Friedman.

12 SUPERVISOR DOLES: The next speaker.

13 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Chaim  
 14 Friedman. Shmuel Stern.

15 MR. STERN: Thank you for allowing me to  
 16 speak. My name is Shmuel Stern. I have lived in  
 17 Kiryas Joel now for over ten years and I would  
 18 like to speak my mind regarding the annexation  
 19 process.

20 My parents live in Baywater, it's a  
 21 neighborhood in Queens which is very similar to  
 22 the surrounding neighborhoods here outside of KJ.  
 23 Let me tell you, I would love to live in Bay  
 24 wateror herein Woodbury. It's spacious there's  
 25 room for all, but the fact it it is impractically



1 impossible and here's why. As you can see I'm a  
 2 Hasidic Jew. We have morning and evening prayers  
 3 each and every day. By the way, someone just  
 4 stood up on this podium and said I'm Jewish too  
 5 and you only need thirteen people for a minion.  
 6 She might be Jewish but she has no clue what  
 7 practicing Judaism is all about because there's no  
 8 number thirteen. You can ask every Jew in the  
 9 world. Nobody knows where thirteen came from.  
 10 The fact is if I were to live in Bay Water  
 11 or if I would buy an existing home in the  
 12 surrounding towns and villages here outside of  
 13 KJ, it wouldn't be a problem during the regular  
 14 weekdays when I can drive to the synagogue blocks  
 15 away or attend a family event by driving five or  
 16 ten minutes away. But on every Saturday, the  
 17 Jewish Sabbath and all holidays when we're not  
 18 permitted to operate cars we must walk long  
 19 distances to the synagogue, and usually in Bay  
 20 Water this is the case. It's impossible,  
 21 especially for the kids. Living in those places  
 22 where there's a lack of sidewalks and street  
 23 lights and people live so apart of each other  
 24 creates a safety hazard every weekend, and all  
 25

1 Jewish holidays as we attend our school and  
 2 family. Therefore the best choice for us is  
 3 living closely together the way we do here in KJ,  
 4 and that's why we need to expand our Village so  
 5 that my children can also have the same  
 6 opportunity.  
 7  
 8 Some folks would say why do I care about your  
 9 religion. The answer is America stands for  
 10 freedom of religion, not freedom from religion  
 11 but rather freedom of religion, which means that  
 12 everyone should be able to practice their own way  
 13 of life with safety and comfort. Freedom of  
 14 religion means that my children and I should be  
 15 able to practice our religion without having to  
 16 sacrifice our safety.  
 17  
 18 Someone just came up like before the break  
 19 and said by the way there are a lot of people in  
 20 KJ who live near the poultry plant --  
 21  
 22 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.  
 23  
 24 MR. FRIEDMAN: -- and they're complaining,  
 25 they're not happy. Listen, I live there. Please  
 do not speak in my name. I live there and if I  
 have to complain to someone, our Village leaders  
 are always there to hear what we have to say.

1  
2 Therefore I ask you to please approve the  
3 annexation. Thanks again for your time.

4 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Sarah  
5 Haisley. Sarah Haisley, followed by Mike  
6 Goldstein. Sarah Haisley or Mike Goldstein.  
7 After Mike is Ward Brower.

8 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Good evening, Mike  
9 Goldstein. Or good morning. Earlier this  
10 evening the attorney for the United Monroe was  
11 trying to get a quote in from the late supervisor  
12 of the Town of Monroe, William C. Rogers, which  
13 was made on December 10, 1976. I'm going to put  
14 it into the record. For the Satmats to believe  
15 that they're above or separate from the rules and  
16 regulations that Monroe has chosen to live by, or  
17 try to impose their morays upon the community of  
18 Monroe, or to hide behind the self-imposed shade  
19 of secrecy, or cry out religious persecution  
20 there is none, will only lead to more  
21 confrontations as bitter as the one the decision  
22 purports to resolve. I hope that will not be the  
23 case. How prophetic that was.

24 I will also tell you that I have a long  
25 history with your Village. In 1973 I was a

1  
2 resident on Seven Springs Road. Imagine my  
3 surprise when I found out that you wanted to take  
4 my house into your Village. Oh, yeah. Isn't  
5 that too bad. Well, the Elroy homes, a few of my  
6 neighbors on Seven Springs Road, we fought it,  
7 and if you look at the zoning maps we won the  
8 battle. We were kept out of the Village of KJ.  
9 We had a spot zone around us. Part of my house  
10 is still not in the Village of Kiryas Joel.  
11 That's section 8 I believe on your new proposal.

12 I would also like to point out that when  
13 you bought the house it was a blue collar  
14 neighborhood, there were no sidewalks, there were  
15 no street lights, and yet you chose to live  
16 there. If you didn't like it then, don't buy  
17 there.

18 The other thing you can do is have special  
19 improvement districts. You could pay through  
20 your taxes to have lights and sidewalks built in  
21 those streets.

22 The other thing I'd like to point out,  
23 unfortunately there's nobody left, is that I  
24 believe the annexation is contrary to our State  
25 Constitution which is the home rule.

1  
2 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.  
3 MR. GOLDSTEIN: What?  
4 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.  
5 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Oh. I would like our  
6 legislators to revisit these annexation rules and  
7 rewrite them. Thank you.  
8 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you, Mr.  
9 Goldstein. Mr. Brower.  
10 MR. WELLS: Following Mr. Brower is Carla  
11 Costillo.  
12 MR. BROWER: Ward Brower, a private  
13 citizen from the Town of Monroe. Thank you for  
14 the time, even though it's only three minutes.  
15 It's not enough time to address all that's wrong  
16 with this annexation, so I'll go to another  
17 topic.  
18 What's wrong with the annexation process.  
19 Some flaws. Selection of lead agency. We select  
20 lead agency from agencies that are involved. The  
21 problem is involved agencies come with motivation  
22 or bias. Now how can that possibly affect the  
23 outcome? Well, if you're a lead agency with bias  
24 or motivation, you can hold a meeting on an  
25 inclement night, thereby restricting turnout. If

1  
2 you're a lead agency with bias you can push the  
3 time clock ahead on this, therefore not giving  
4 enough time to adequately address all -- address  
5 all the ramifications.  
6 The next thing that's possibly wrong here  
7 is when this is contested and ends up in the  
8 courts, case history tells us over 80 percent of  
9 the court findings favor municipalities with  
10 service -- high services, high density, generally  
11 deep pockets.  
12 And also I have, in addition, very lax  
13 or lack -- very lax or non-existing  
14 environmental concerns. Commissioner Martens  
15 commented in a letter many of us wrote saying  
16 that the Village of Kiryas Joel is a shiny  
17 example of good high-density development versus  
18 urban sprawl. He sort of probably lifted this  
19 from the concept of cluster development. Cluster  
20 development is easier to define than to -- I'll  
21 give you an example. With cluster development  
22 you have a theoretical 40 acre piece of property.  
23 If you had one acre zoning, if you put the 40  
24 homes on 10 acres you would have 30 acres  
25 leftover for open space and whatever. That's not

1 what we see here. We have one square mile.  
 2  
 3 Where is the three square miles of open space for  
 4 water, air, biodiversity, et cetera? It's not  
 5 there.

6 Last of all, this is a home rule state.  
 7 The representatives of this Village went up to  
 8 Albany pleading home rule, get Orange County  
 9 Department of Planning out of our hair. The most  
 10 anti-home rule thing you could do, a process we  
 11 have on the books, is this annexation. The  
 12 biggest --

13 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

14 R. BROWER: -- threat to home rule is to  
 15 have a neighboring municipality come in and annex  
 16 your home. It's unconstitutional if you accept  
 17 New York State Constitutional premises that we're  
 18 a home rule state, and if you can have a  
 19 neighboring municipality come and annex your  
 20 home, this law is not legal.  
 21 The last five minutes I want to thank you  
 22 for your time.

23 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you, Mr. Brower.

24 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Carla  
 25 Castillo. Carla Castillo or Casillo. Christine

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Durso.

MS. DURSO: There were seventy-six  
 speakers tonight, approximately. So thank you to  
 the Board for having me speak. I'm Christine  
 Durso. I have spoken before. I'm not going to  
 talk about the annexation. Everything that could  
 be said has been said.

I'm actually concerned, though, really  
 about what this is doing to the community and  
 what this panel has not thought through. It  
 saddens me to know that we're being accused of  
 being anti-Semitic and yet facts are being  
 presented that have nothing to do with religion.  
 You know, I could put it out there. My  
 grandfather was a World War II veteran. Okay.  
 He was born before the Titanic, he lived through  
 World War I, served in World War II, lived  
 through Vietnam, saw the World Trade Tower fall,  
 saw many disasters of his time. But I can tell  
 you that to this day his proudest and most  
 achieving moment was helping to liberate not just  
 Auschwitz but men in concentration camps, and that  
 is a horrible, horrible, horrible thing to accuse  
 so many American citizens who have family members

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1  
2 who have proudly served in the armed services and  
3 who have also served themselves.

4 You know, as a person who lives in Monroe  
5 I have had many encounters with members of the  
6 Hasidm community. Last year I had been in the  
7 parking lot of Target working on my car, putting  
8 some windshield wiper fluid in it, and a  
9 gentleman came over and asked me if I was having  
10 problems with my car. I thanked him profusely,  
11 letting him know that I had not had problems, I  
12 was just taking care of it. I think he was  
13 surprised that a woman was able to take care of  
14 her car, but was also very nice. I wonder if  
15 that gentleman was present tonight or what his  
16 views are on this annexation, creating such a  
17 ripple in our community, tearing things apart.

18 You know, I would -- I welcome all members  
19 of society in my community. I live in a  
20 development that's very diverse, Mexicans,  
21 Italians, Puerto Ricans, Irish like myself,  
22 Italian like my husband.

23 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

24 MS. DURSO: There's nothing that we've  
25 done in our community that sets us as being

1  
2 anti-Semitic. We just want to see the parklands  
3 and the woods that we moved here for being  
4 preserved and not being overrun. That's all I  
5 need. I don't need any more time.

6 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Aron  
7 Spielman. Aron Spielman, followed by Beatrice  
8 Burgis. Shioma Weiss. Aron Spielman.

9 MR. WEISS: Good evening. I feel a little  
10 foolish to keep all those people at that time of  
11 the night.

12 MR. WELLS: Speak your name, please.

13 MR. WEISS: My name is Shioma Weiss. I'm  
14 a resident here in the Village and I'm the CEO of  
15 the (inaudible) center dealing with children with  
16 special needs. I really don't have that much to  
17 offer that was here before.

18 As we all know, that as of now there are  
19 many homes for sale in the Monroe area. It's  
20 mostly private homes which are expensive and the  
21 taxes are not affordable. There are no  
22 affordable large condo homes available for sale  
23 in the greater Monroe area. As my experience all  
24 those years dealing with children, I learned that  
25 a normal and affordable home environment gives a

1  
 2 Lot to the upbringing of all the children,  
 3 especially for the children with special needs.  
 4 The annexation is the only way to have  
 5 more affordable large condos for middle income  
 6 families with the children/family lifestyle.  
 7 So please approve the annexation to the  
 8 earliest convenience because many families and  
 9 children are relying on it. Thank you.

10 Just one more second since I have the mic  
 11 in my hand. I think this is the place to express  
 12 my token of appreciation for all the elected  
 13 officials from the Town and the County and from  
 14 the Village, and especially for our mayor. From  
 15 living here I'm amazed how creative, professional  
 16 and organized all the public services are. I  
 17 know that it takes hard work and a lot of  
 18 planning, et cetera. As of human nature you are  
 19 not getting any positive feedback, you're rather  
 20 getting criticism. So I would like to tell you  
 21 that people do appreciate your hard work. Keep  
 22 it up and God should bless you. Thank you.

23 MR. WELLS: Aron Spielman, Beatrice  
 24 Burgis, Shmaye Krausz, Jeff Manson.

25 MR. SPIELMAN: I want to start --

1  
 2 MR. WELLS: State your name, please.  
 3 MR. SPIELMAN: My name is Aron Spielman.  
 4 What a beautiful wedding hall in the poorest  
 5 Village. I want to clarify something. This  
 6 wedding hall was donated by someone.  
 7 I have a question to ask tonight. How can  
 8 some people on one hand declare that no one is  
 9 above the law and that everyone should play by  
 10 the same rules, and in the meantime demanding  
 11 that the current is not fair and should be  
 12 changed. It's like saying if the law agrees with  
 13 my view it's good, and if not it should be  
 14 modified. If there's a law regarding annexation  
 15 that at some point favors the petitioners,  
 16 everyone should agree to it and not try to change  
 17 it. If the law was good until now, it should be  
 18 good from now on. The slogan that everyone  
 19 should follow the same laws shouldn't be used as  
 20 a double standard. If it's the current law  
 21 everyone is entitled to follow it.

22 So please say yes to annexation and follow  
 23 the law. Thank you.

24 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Shmaye  
 25 Krausz.

1 MR. KRAUSZ: Good evening. My name is  
 2 Shmayer Krausz. As one of the annexation  
 3 petitioners I know that this annexation has  
 4 caused concern to some people who like living in  
 5 a rural setting and are concerned about high-  
 6 density developments. I will ask them to give a  
 7 look at an actual area of annexation according to  
 8 the area of the neighborhood. The annexation  
 9 area is that small that it's difficult to spot on  
 10 a regular Orange County map. It's less than a  
 11 tenth of a percent of the 537,000 acres of Orange  
 12 County. It's less than 4 percent of the nearly  
 13 14,000 acres of land in Monroe.  
 14  
 15 People need to take into consideration  
 16 that annexation is the only possible way to make  
 17 sure that we maintain a buffer zone between the  
 18 communities which is essential for everyone.

19 I also want to point out that I own a home  
 20 in the Town of Monroe. My tax bill this year for  
 21 school tax, town tax and county tax is well above  
 22 \$20,000. Do you know what that bill would be in  
 23 the Kiryas Joel School District and in the  
 24 Village of Monday -- Village of Kiryas Joel?  
 25 More than thirty percent less. I would not get

1 less services, I would get more services. And  
 2 because of this I urge you to please pass  
 3 annexation. Good night.

4 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Jeff Manson,  
 5 followed by Isaac Schnithlur. Jeff Mason. Joel  
 6 Lowy. Jonas Hoffman.

7 MR. LOWY: Good evening. My name is Joel  
 8 Lowy. Allow me to give you my take on the  
 9 annexation argument. Since it's inception in  
 10 1974 Kiryas Joel exceptionally excelled being a  
 11 crime-free Village. We would like to continue  
 12 living this way and we don't want to surrender  
 13 the crime-free setting the Village of Kiryas Joel  
 14 offers. That is why we need more land to expand  
 15 that beautiful way of living so that future  
 16 generations should benefit the same peaceful  
 17 crime-free Village we live in.

18 Accordingly I ask you please approve the  
 19 annexation. Thank you.

20 SUPERVISOR DOLES: The next speaker is  
 21 going to have the luxury of being able to -- for  
 22 us to be able to say good morning. For whoever  
 23 that is, is that Jonas Hoffman? Good morning,  
 24 MR. HOFFMAN: Yes, that is Jonas Hoffman.  
 25

1 I would like to take the opportunity to thank the  
 2 leaders of our Village of KJ for taking on the  
 3 task of worrying about the future of our  
 4 children. I don't know if the leaders are aware,  
 5 the last two-and-a-half weeks, 23 new couples got  
 6 married. They have to have where to live. The  
 7 next couple of weeks there's 22 more coming.  
 8 These people --

9 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Please keep it down in  
 10 the back.

11 MR. HOFFMAN: These people need where to  
 12 live. I'm not so sure that all of these couples  
 13 have a proper apartment where to live in. Plus,  
 14 we have over 100 families moved out in the last  
 15 year to live here because they found that this  
 16 place is a beautiful place to live.

17 And then we have our school system. Our  
 18 way of life is that the girls stay around the  
 19 family, they don't move out after they get  
 20 married. We have in our school system over 8,000  
 21 girls. And you know what that means? In the  
 22 next couple of years where are these 8,000 girls  
 23 going to live? These kids need apartments, these  
 24 kids need room where to live in.  
 25

1 And to the Town officials I would like to  
 2 say annexation, it only helps the Town, expands  
 3 the Town, it makes -- this town is going to be  
 4 the biggest Town in the County. It brings the  
 5 economy, it picks up the economy, helps the  
 6 economy, it creates jobs.

7 When you look to the jobs it creates you  
 8 start from the planning, the architects, the land  
 9 surveyors, the excavators, the foundations, the  
 10 framers. Everybody is coming in and working  
 11 here, and that boosts up the economy for the  
 12 whole Town. It's a benefit to everybody.

13 And then a small little thing that people  
 14 were talking, it's not anti-Semitism. We know  
 15 that. The food industry, when you produce a type  
 16 of food, you don't have to write all the  
 17 ingredients on the label.

18 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds, sir.

19 MR. HOFFMAN: There's a certain percent  
 20 that does not have to be labeled.

21 Behind everybody's speech was a little bit  
 22 anti-Semitism in there. It's just painful to  
 23 hear so much that there's surrounded by so much  
 24 anti-Semitism. I would really would like to see  
 25



1 this annexation go through.  
 2  
 3 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Please let the record  
 4 reflect that Mr. Hoffman is a member of the Town  
 5 of Monroe Zoning Board.  
 6 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Nathan  
 7 Loeb.  
 8 MR. LOEB: Hello. Good night. Good  
 9 evening everybody. I would like first to  
 10 introduce myself. I am married to the daughter of  
 11 Jonas Hoffman. I would like to ask the Town and  
 12 Village Board to approve the annexation. Our  
 13 families and our children need housing.  
 14 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Could you speak into  
 15 the mic, please. Just raise it.  
 16 MR. LOEB: They need it in their  
 17 environment they wish. They are many people with  
 18 many different lifestyles, but in our community  
 19 most people have large families and they like the  
 20 urban style of living. You can't put a woman  
 21 that doesn't drive a car in a desert. You can't  
 22 put children in a rich family in te jungle. They  
 23 need company, they need environment. The  
 24 children need friends to play with.  
 25 I think there's a lack of understanding.

1  
 2 If everyone would understand how important the  
 3 annexation is for so many people, then everyone  
 4 would support it.  
 5 I love -- I love -- I personally love  
 6 society. I love to meet with all kinds of  
 7 people. This is adding beauty in our lives.  
 8 Beautiful art is combined from all different  
 9 colors. The same as with society. But there's  
 10 something weird behind it. Everyone should  
 11 respect other's opinion. It's all about being  
 12 positive to others. There's something like  
 13 accepting others and there's something like  
 14 respecting others. Even though you have  
 15 different clothes but you should understand that  
 16 someone could think differently. It's called we  
 17 agree to disagree.  
 18 I would like to ask the Town to approve  
 19 the annexation for the good of this community.  
 20 Even though for myself I wouldn't like the  
 21 annexation because I was looking to buy a house  
 22 in the Town of Monroe, not in such -- so much  
 23 people around me. But the annexation, the price  
 24 of the housing is getting up because they all --  
 25 because it's getting annexed so I could ask much

1  
2 more. I understand that for the good of most of  
3 the people there annexation is needed. So that's  
4 why I support the annexation.

5 SUPERISOR DOLES: Thank you.

6 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Berish  
7 Stern, followed by Kornbluh Yitzchon.

8 MR. STERN: Good evening. My name is  
9 Berish Stern, I live in Town of Monroe for the  
10 last fifteen years.

11 I would like to have some clarification  
12 from United Monroe on the annexation impact.  
13 While I'm driving home I'm staying -- I'm on exit  
14 16, staying in traffic while Woodbury Commons  
15 doubled their size right now as we speak. As we  
16 speak they're doubling their parking, they're  
17 doubling their whole place over there. They're  
18 doubling. Nobody has a problem with that.  
19 Nobody has a problem with the impact from them.  
20 Nobody has a problem while this is annexation is  
21 going through. They're seeing that right now.  
22 They are waiting in traffic trying to get home  
23 and they -- nobody has a problem with their  
24 impact over there, getting home. Just getting  
25 home to Town of Monroe or getting home to KJ.

1  
2 Now, now as we speak they don't have any problems  
3 with that.

4 I'm driving down on a Friday afternoon,  
5 I'm driving down Larkin Drive trying to go home,  
6 trying to see the car impact that they say that  
7 KJ is going to have. I would like to see where  
8 the impact is going. For the last -- since the  
9 annexation is -- they're talking about annexation  
10 I'm trying to analyze what the car impact is  
11 going to be. I'm driving down Larkin Drive  
12 trying to look into cars. I'm seeing maybe five  
13 cars. It's from County Route 105 until -- almost  
14 until Wal-Mart there's cars over there. I'm  
15 trying to look in, how many cars are going into  
16 KJ. I see maybe five cars are going into KJ. I  
17 don't see where the impact is going over there  
18 with the cars. I don't see what this is going to  
19 do. Even though we have a problem with the car  
20 impact, KJ has still a credit because only half  
21 of the cars that -- half of the people that live  
22 in KJ only drive, So we still have a credit for  
23 doubling and have double cars to bring in. Even  
24 though we're going to double, we're still going  
25 to have the same amount of cars. Nothing is

1 going to change like a different place in a  
 2 different community. Everything is going to be  
 3 the same. Realistically we are entitled of  
 4 double cars.

5 I would like to know -- I would like to  
 6 know the impact what they have about multiple  
 7 dwellings. I don't see in Cornwall, I don't see  
 8 in New Windsor. They're building multiple  
 9 dwellings. They don't have no problem that 32  
 10 can handle all this stuff. They have only a  
 11 problem that KJ has a problem that's going to  
 12 impact over here, over there. This is happening  
 13 right now. Why don't --

14 MR. WELLS: Thirty seconds.

15 MR. STERN: -- they look at that and try  
 16 to take care of those business that this is only  
 17 imposing. This is trying to get -- KJ is trying  
 18 to get annexation. This is happening right now.  
 19 Let them look right now and work on those  
 20 impacts, then they should work on impacts that's  
 21 going to happen. Thank you.

22 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you, sir. The  
 23 next speaker.

24 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Kornbluh  
 25

1 Yitzchon, followed by Israel Kraus, followed by  
 2 Cheskel Werzberger.  
 3 MR. KORNBLUH: My name is Yitzchon  
 4 Kornbluh. Throughout the annexation process many  
 5 bring up the argument that since 93 percent of KJ  
 6 residents are on Medicaid the expansion is not in  
 7 the best financial interest of the County. I  
 8 will give my view on this. First of all, who  
 9 makes a number of 93 percent? If you look inside  
 10 the actual County report, when you include Child  
 11 Health Plus, it's about 65 percent. I agree that  
 12 we are number one in the County but we need to  
 13 take in perspective all of the nearly fifty  
 14 categories of the county government. Many in KJ  
 15 have nothing, like the nursing home, the criminal  
 16 court, the jail and college tuition as well as  
 17 County employees. Every neighborhood is unique  
 18 and has their special needs. In Newburgh it's  
 19 security. In Middletown it's college. In KJ  
 20 it's healthcare, large families. If a child  
 21 outside of KJ is eligible to help for their  
 22 healthcare, a KJ child should also be entitled to  
 23 it, and no one can demand us not to have a pro-  
 24 family lifestyle.  
 25

1  
 2 The annexation will help cover the future  
 3 County expenses because it will generate new  
 4 property sales tax income.  
 5 Good night for all.  
 6 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you, sir.  
 7 MR. WELLS: The next speaker is Israel  
 8 Kraus. Cheskel Werzberger.  
 9 MR. WERZBERGER: Supervisor, Mayor,  
 10 leaders and Town Board Members, I've been here  
 11 since the beginning of this evening, in and out,  
 12 it was quite long. I prepared myself a speech.  
 13 I hear both sides of the aisle and I do not think  
 14 I have anything to add.

15 I would like to mention, Mr. Kornbluh just  
 16 spoke a minute before me and he explained a point  
 17 that I believe wasn't explained well enough  
 18 during the whole evening regarding the usage of  
 19 our -- of the resources that the County has to  
 20 provide that the residents of Kiryas Joel use. I  
 21 was up in the Village office in the morning and I  
 22 just -- I made some research regarding crime. Of  
 23 course crime -- there's the jail involved and  
 24 criminal courts. I believe the sheriff's office.  
 25 I'm not so familiar with the certain courts, but

1 on a scale from 1 to 100, the Village of --  
 2 that's public information online, the Village of  
 3 Kiryas Joel has a 95 rate. The less crime and 0  
 4 the biggest crime. The Town of Monroe, Wallkill,  
 5 the surrounding areas are at 45 or 43 percent on  
 6 a scale from 0 to 100. So that all definitely  
 7 means less cost from KJ residents.  
 8

9 I would like to make just one more point.  
 10 I would put myself in a position standing on the  
 11 other side of the aisle if these people were  
 12 talking about controlled growth, non controlled  
 13 growth, smart growth, unsmart growth. For these  
 14 people on the other side of the aisle of KJ, the  
 15 smartest decision to make is to approve the  
 16 annexation. If the annexation is not approved,  
 17 in fifty years from now, in twenty years from  
 18 now, the entire podium here is going to be filled  
 19 with our people.

20 There was someone before who mentioned the  
 21 Monroe Woodbury School District. I can't even  
 22 imagine from where that argument comes because  
 23 everyone thinking a little bit with a sharp mind  
 24 would know if we approve annexation, the KJ  
 25 School District is going to provide a service for

1  
 2 all of us, even in the annexed area. If not, we  
 3 are going to move into the Town of Monroe and  
 4 Monroe-Woodbury School District and then they're  
 5 going to feel our impact there.

6 So for the best of us, for the best of our  
 7 future, the best of our children's future, please  
 8 approve the annexation.

9 MR. WELLS: Cheskel Werzberger.

10 MR. WERZBERGER: Good morning. My name is  
 11 Cheskel Werzberger. Allow me to give you my take  
 12 on the argument. Kiryas Joel is unique in that  
 13 it gives us the real opportunity to live in a  
 14 healthy environment and a crime-free village. We  
 15 want to continue living this way. We don't want  
 16 to change our style of living to less safe towns  
 17 and villages. That is why we need more land to  
 18 expand our beautiful way of living. We want our  
 19 children and grandchildren to live in the same  
 20 peaceful village, so I ask you to please approve  
 21 the annexation. Thank you.

22 SUPERVISOR DOLES: The next speaker,  
 23 please.

24 MR. WELLS: Elyah Farkas.

25 MR. FARKAS: Good evening. We are here

1 for a public hearing to hear everyone's opinion  
 2 regarding the proposed annexation. I'm sure that  
 3 everyone who lives in the Town understands the  
 4 importance of this issue and participating in  
 5 tonight's hearing.

6 Apparently we left out to invite the most  
 7 important group who will be affected. Those are  
 8 the children. So I will talk a few words for  
 9 them. We have now in KJ about 16,000 children  
 10 from age 0 to age 20. They are worried for their  
 11 future. They look for us to deal with the  
 12 housing crisis when they will become older.  
 13 They'll have to choose between paying a high  
 14 price living in a one-bedroom apartment or to  
 15 search for expensive housing in the surrounding  
 16 neighborhoods. I won't make their choice for  
 17 them.

18 So I ask in the name of 16,000 children,  
 19 please approve the 507 acre annexation. I would  
 20 also like to ask if it's possible to multiply my  
 21 comments to 16,000 comments for the voice of  
 22 those 16,000 children. Thank you.

23 MR. WELLS: The last speaker who signed up  
 24 is Mr. Simon Gelb.

1  
2 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Good morning, Mr. Gelb.

3 MR. GELB: Good morning. Good morning. I  
4 had quite a bit to say, however given the late  
5 hour, the early hour, let's do something very  
6 productive, which is by the way also in the  
7 public interest. Let's go to sleep and I will  
8 present my comments in writing. Thank you.

9 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Thank you very much,  
10 Mr. Gelb, for that.

11 MR. GELB: Good morning all.

12 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Ladies and gentlemen,  
13 we're not -- please. For the Village -- we're  
14 still in session. We have not adjourned.

15 MR. WELLS: Is there a motion to close  
16 this hearing?

17 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Unless there's comment  
18 from any of the individual Board Members from the  
19 Town or Village, I need a motion to adjourn.

20 BOARD MEMBER: I'll make that motion.

21 SUPERVISOR DOLES: We need a second.

22 BOARD MEMBER: Second.

23 SUPERVISOR DOLES: Unless there's any  
24 discussion -- ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of  
25 the Town of Monroe and the Village of Kiryas

1  
2 Joel, we thank you very much for your attending.  
3 We embrace your comments. With God's grace we'll  
4 be able to resolve this issue so that it reaches  
5 the satisfaction of everyone.  
6 Thank you very much and we stand  
7 adjourned.

## C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, Michelle Conero, a Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public within and for the State of New York, do hereby certify that I recorded stenographically the proceedings herein at the time and place noted in the heading hereof, and that the foregoing is an accurate and complete transcript of same to the best of my knowledge and belief.

*Michelle Conero*

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DATED: June 26, 2010

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