

Veronica Connolly
68 Fredrick Dr.
Monroe, NY 10950

March 10, 2015

Tim Miller Associates
10 North St.
Cold Spring Harbor, NY 10516

Dear Mr. Miller,

My name is Veronica Connolly and I am a resident of the Town of Monroe. My family and I have previously moved to Monroe from Nassau County NY which is in Long Island. If you are unfamiliar with this area of NY you may not know that Long Island like Monroe was a rural farming community but in over 50 years that has drastically changed. Long Island has become more urbanized in many areas specifically in Nassau County but that change took more than ½ a century to be at its current state. My husband and I had made an educated decision to move away from the urbanization occurring in Long Island and researched areas that would be more appealing to cleaner environment that offered open spaces and a more conducive rural character within in a suburban community. Through our diligent efforts we found the commutable distance to New York City as well as the zoning laws within the Village of Monroe, the Town of Monroe and other neighboring towns including Woodbury. They were very appealing due to the single family residential building codes which in our opinion would keep urbanization at bay and ensure clean open air environment for our family to grow and prosper for decades.

As part of the Environmental Review of the pending 507 land grab being orchestrated by the Village leaders in Kiryas Joel is the inevitable urbanization that will take place within Monroe if the proposed annexation is approved. The study should include how fast this urbanization will take place. Unlike Nassau County where urbanization took multiple decades to occur the Kiryas Joel 507 proposed annexation will surely fast track urban sprawl. This is very crucial in my opinion because with urbanization comes a host of economic, structural, and very significant impacts to not just Monroe but Orange County and NY state. The SEQRA must include the inevitable zoning changes that will occur to the proposed annexed land in order to be a true and fair study. It is imperative for the SEQR to show high density housing as opposed to development under the current zoning laws. The village Leaders in KJ have openly admitted they need room to grow, a female resident who spoke at the ridiculous scoping session on March 3, 2015 stated for the record she would like to build additional apartments on her property which is currently zoned single family residential. I ask, how many other land developers want to do the same? The answer to that is easy, all of them!

Furthermore with urbanization what sort of economic impact will this have among social services with in Orange County with over 90% of the population in Kiryas Joel obtaining some sort of government assistance? How will other County and State run support services like early Intervention be impacted because most of the funding is being funneled to social services like HEAP, and Medicaid?

A hard look needs to be made into the education services being provided by the Kiryas Joel School District. Is the school district offering their students a state mandated education that meets all the NYS Educational departments' curriculum standards that will produce active members of society outside of their religious beliefs? The students that are enrolled in private religious schools within the Village of KJ are they also obtaining an education that is mandated by the State Education Department? I ask you to look at these because with poorly educated students we then obtain members of society that will continue to be a burden on social services and many other publically funded programs and a vicious cycle ensues that will come at the expense of every resident in Orange County if urbanization is allowed to occur with this proposed annexation. It is state law that students are being provided a sound education whether in private or public schools and not solely based on religious teachings. These laws are in effect so as to produce as stated previously active members of society.

Mr. Miller please take all of my concerns stated above and include them within the State Environmental Review of the proposed land grab being orchestrated by the Village leaders in Kiryas Joel.

Thank you,
Veronica Connolly