

From: BillKazdan <BillKazdan@kazweb.com>
Date: March 9, 2015 at 10:01:22 AM PDT
To: tim@timmlerassociates.com
Subject: Kiryas Joel Annexation SEQRA

Mr Miller,

Like many other residents of the Town of Monroe, I am concerned about the many effects of the proposed annexation on our community.

These range from environmental and aesthetic to economic, educational, and political.

I moved to Monroe in 1998 and bought a home here in 2000. My main considerations were a semi-rural community within commuting distance to NYC and good schools.

I was peripherally aware of the Village of Kiryas Joel but it was not a real factor in my decision to buy here.

Things have changed. I have heard from people who are looking to buy a house that they have been warned that Monroe is not a good investment because of the growth and influence of the Satmar group, that our schools will be negatively impacted in the same way as those in Lawrence, NY and in Spring Valley, NY. I am concerned that this will decrease the value of my major investment, my home.

I have seen the disregard by the leaders of the village for rules and regulations and for the damage they have done to the local environment. I have seen the sometimes violent disagreements between various factions of the group including arson, assault, and destruction of property. These are a matter of public record, and have been reported in the local press. I have seen, in other communities influenced by this sect, businesses forced to conform to their customs, and attempts to segregate men and women on public transportation. I do not want to see that in Monroe.

I do not want to see a group that deliberately excludes outsiders and teaches their own people to distrust us expand their borders.

Because of the outsize influence of their bloc vote, the village has managed to gain many advantages, concessions, and dispensations over the years. Their political influence is almost legendary, often to the detriment of those around them.

These include legislation for their school district, special treatment by the Town Board (e.g. the current contract for repaving streets), and favorable court rulings for things that are obviously wrong (like the lawsuit to stop the oversize pipeline they are desperate to fund which was dismissed for not being filed in a timely fashion WHILE IT IS STILL UNDER CONSTRUCTION).

I cannot overstate my concern for the conflicts between the interests of the citizens of the town outside the village of Kiryas Joel and the actions of the Town Board. These can only be exacerbated by the unprecedented (in size) expansion of the village.

Others have mentioned concerns about sewer capacity, about traffic, about social services and their costs, and more with which I heartily concur. I am also concerned by the output of the poultry processing plant and the special consideration it has received.

Having had some personal experience with the Kiryas Joel Department of Public Safety and its enforcement of the directives of the village leadership even if it conflicts with the actual law, I am gravely concerned by anything that increases its jurisdiction.

The village Fire Department has severe restrictions and would add a layer between residents of the proposed annexation and Monroe's fully accredited department.

If this were a simple matter of citizens talking to citizens about accommodating their interests in a mutually acceptable way I would understand and perhaps support a reasonable solution. That is not the case here. The village leadership cares nothing for anyone outside itself, not for its own followers or for the outsiders, the "goyim".

To have this annexation go forward would be injurious to me, to my neighbors, to my town, to the environment, to the rule of law, to democracy and to the misinformed and abused people of Kiryas Joel.

BillKazdan

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