

Text of verbal comments of Herman Wagschal at 3/3/15 scoping session:

As a resident of the Town of Monroe I would like to address an issue that many of my neighbors choose not to discuss.

While they call themselves United Monroe, as a resident of Monroe, I feel left out.

While the so called United Monroe would have an entire community deemed as fraudsters based on meritless grounds, I for one, would like to address some issues that are very well supported.

One of the concerns raised by United Monroe is that “The effects of annexation – if it were to be approved – will be potentially devastating to our environment, school district, and overall quality of life. Once annexed the property will change from 1.5 to 3 acre “rural residential” zoning – to high density building. The addition of apartments and condominiums housing large families will increase the population tremendously.”

It is possible that annexation will increase the population. However, how is this a negative thing?

An increase in population leads to a healthy economy.

An increase in population **will increase** the overall quality of life.

Another concern raised by the United Monroe is that it will have “A huge impact on taxes, since Kiryas Joel residents are largely below the poverty level, receiving many government benefits which are paid for, in part, by Orange County.”

I for one would like to ask

How much is the county tax payer saving by not having a single KJ resident in the County Jail?

How much is the county tax payer saving by not having a single KJ resident in the Valley View Nursing Home?

How much is the county tax payer saving by not having a single KJ resident in the county drug rehabilitation and treatment center?

How much is the county tax payer saving by not having a single KJ resident in the County Criminal Court?

How much is the county tax payer saving by not having a single KJ resident processed by the County Sheriffs?

How much is the county tax payer saving by not having a single KJ resident in the Orange County Community College?

How much is the county tax payer saving by not having a single KJ resident deliver a teenage drug baby?

LONG PAUSE

Another concern raised by United Monroe is that “While Satmar Hasidic residents opt to attend private school, if they are located within the M-W School District, they are still entitled to vote in School Board Elections, utilize special education services and so on.”

While this concern doesn't even deserve an answer, as every tax payer is entitled to utilize the school if they chose too, it does uncover your true colors.

I urge the board to weigh the interest of all of us equally. Instead of being concerned about the possibility that Hasidcs may choose to utilize the public school which they are entitled too, look to the fact as to how much the county tax payer is saving by not having 12,000 Jewish kids of KJ residents enrolled in the Monroe Woodbury Public Schools.

Annexation will only boost our economy and enhance our quality of life.

Never in American society has an increase in population been looked on in a negative light.

If it is the people within the population you have an issue with, then come out and say it.

Don't hide under the name of United Monroe as big as an oxymoron the word United in this sentence may be.