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ROBERT E. REW JR. (1912-1960)
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OUR FILE # _____

September 25, 2014

Village of Kiryas Joel
c/o Tim Muller Associates Incorporated
10 North Street
Cold Spring, New York 10516

Re: Kiryas Joel Annexation

To Members of the General Public as well as all interested
and involved agencies in the matter of the annexation of
164 acres from the Town of Monroe to the Village of Kiryas Joel

This office serves as counsel to the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Monroe Joint Fire District. The Board of Fire Commissioners and the Monroe Fire Department will be, we expect, the authority in control of fire protection within the annexation area. Nonetheless, we note that the Notice of Determination of Significance and Public Scoping Documents seem to indicate that fire protection will be provided by an entity known as the "Fire Brigade" of the Village of Kiryas Joel. We wish to register our objections to the proposed inclusion of the fire brigade of the Village of Kiryas Joel as a fire department or the Village of Kiryas Joel as the authority in control of fire protection in the areas proposed to be annexed.

In the event however, that the Notice of Determination of Significance and Public Scoping Document shall operate as the effective document for purposes of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) or other public consideration of the proposed annexation, we submit the following.

The Board of Fire Commissioners of the Monroe Joint Fire District and the Monroe Fire Department have noted, in the past and continuing to the present, several difficulties in responding to alarms of fire or other general emergency within the Village of Kiryas Joel. These difficulties stem, largely, though not completely, from what is apparently a practice of businesses and residents within the Village of Kiryas Joel, of calling the "Fire Brigade" or some emergency number provided within the village community, rather than 911 so that the calls may be properly routed through Orange County

Dispatch to the Monroe Fire Department. This has resulted and, we expect will continue to result, in delays of response or absolute failures of response. In the event that scoping shall proceed as indicated in the Notice of Determination of Significance and Public Scoping Document, we note that the following questions, at the very least, must be adequately addressed:

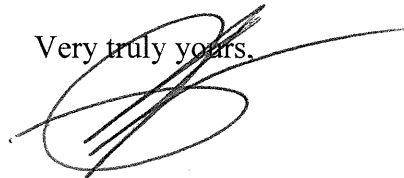
1. What is the official status of the Kiryas Joel fire department?
2. What financial impact will the proposed annexation have on the Monroe Joint Fire District?
3. Why are the residents instructed to call Kiryas Joel emergency dispatch in lieu of 911?
4. Does the "fire brigade" follow the NYS guidelines of 2 in and 2 out.
5. How much equipment does the "fire brigade" have?
6. How many paid firefighters does the "fire brigade" have and what are their shifts?
7. How many qualified and trained members (volunteer or paid) does the "fire brigade" have?
8. What are their qualifications. Interior, exterior, etc?
9. Does the "fire brigade" follow the NYS guidelines of 2 in and 2 out for SCBA qualified firefighters?
10. How does the "fire brigade" answer carbon monoxide calls and gas leaks in the event there are no SCBA- rated interior firefighters available?

In addition, we wish to note that information received from the Orange County Fire Coordinator indicates that the Kiryas Joel responded to 1489 responses in the past year. In the experience of the officers of the Monroe Fire Department, this is an extraordinary number of responses, particularly for a fire department which we believe does not have a paid crew.

We believe that responsible fire protection has been threatened by the manner in which the Village of Kiryas Joel and its inhabitants have routed calls for alarms of fire or other general emergencies. The effect of this must be considered in any further annexation efforts.

Please note the interest of the Monroe Joint Fire District in this annexation proceeding and provide any response or request to the Board of Fire Commissioners at the address shown below with a copy to this office.

Very truly yours,



Frank T. Simeone

FTS:ch

cc: Board of Fire Commissioners
Monroe Joint Fire District
406 North Main Street
Monroe, New York 10950