



VILLAGE OF KIRYAS JOEL

Municipal Building

51 Forest Road, P.O. Box 566, Monroe, NY 10949-0566

Tel: (845) 783-8300

Fax: (845) 783-9491 • TDD (800) 662-1220

Mayor

Abraham Wieder

Administrator-Clerk

Gedalye Szegedin

Trustees

Moses Goldstein

Jacob Freund

Samuel Landau

Jacob Reisman

June 14, 2011

Press Release

The Village Will Defend the Rights of the People

The Village of Kiryas Joel is a thriving community of over 21,000 souls located in Orange County, New York. The Village is an acknowledged leader in providing municipal services for all its residents on a universal, non-discriminatory basis. The democratically-elected Village government of Kiryas Joel, which operates pursuant to the laws of the State of New York, has achieved a remarkable success in building a public services infrastructure to serve its residents and benefit the community. Using smart-growth, environmentally-friendly principles to provide public services, the Village has constructed and operates substantial water supply and wastewater disposal systems for all its residents. Pedestrian-friendly streets and walkways, municipal mass transit and park and ride commuter facilities help reduce the pollution provided by automobile-dominated suburban lifestyles.

The full-service Village government provides fire protection, ambulance, and public safety services for all its residents and the larger community. The Village operates a department of public works, a sanitation collection service, and social services as well as planning, zoning, and building codes services.

The services-oriented policies of the elected government have benefitted all residents of the Village and indeed have benefitted the greater community. The services-oriented policies of the Village have received strong support from an electorate which cherishes its constitutionally-guaranteed right to elect its leaders and right to be self-governing in accordance with law.

The Village has been advised that a small group of discontented persons who sponsor a political group which has been unable to achieve sufficient support for its views at the polls has now filed a lawsuit attempting to divest the people of the Village of Kiryas Joel of the right to democratically elect its own government and attempting to undo the substantial achievements of the elected government in providing services that benefit all of the Village's residents. The discontents filed a similar lawsuit some dozen years ago. That lawsuit was dismissed and the rejection upheld by the federal Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

The Village believes that there is no merit in the new lawsuit, which appears to attempt to re-litigate matters which have been previously rejected in both federal and state court when pursued by these discontents. The Village will vigorously defend the constitutional rights of self government, free elections and the right of all people to participate in government. The Village will continue to provide services for all its residents without discrimination and looks forward to partnering with the State of New York to defend the rights of people everywhere to be self governing and to elect their own leaders.