
Subject:

FW: opposition to Kiryas Joel annexation

From: Cathy Herbert [mailto:cherbert87@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2015 10:14 AM
To: tmiller@timillerassociates.com
Subject: Re: opposition to Kiryas Joel annexation

Here are additional questions that I would like addressed. The structure and finances within KJ require explanation and additional transparency, particularly if the village is to expand.

The data that are readily available on public websites provides conflicting and troubling information that require explanation.

Although data show that 93% of KJ receives public assistance, the US census data paint a very different picture, with significant rates of home ownership and a median home price far above the median for the state. Although household income is low, the per capita expenditure per household is high.

<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/36/3639853.html> Please explain how this is possible and what factors are involved, as this will have ramifications in the future of KJ, particularly if it becomes larger.

Many houses/apartments in the \$200-\$300K range show up as recently sold on Zillow; yet no properties are listed for sale. Please explain how sales of homes in KJ are typically made and confirm that sales conform to national anti-discrimination and equal opportunity housing requirements.

A search of the Orange County property database shows extremely low rates of taxation and no allocation for school taxes. Please elaborate on the property tax formula and the school tax formula and what the totals of these are for the village.

The US Census data shows a median household income of @\$24,000 and yet family expenditures (5.58 family members) totals @\$40,000. Please explain.

Please explain, as well, the mortgage/home acquisition processes that apply in KJ. In my experience, a family making \$24,000/year would not qualify for a \$200K condo. Are mortgages made through banks? Through other entities? What percentage is designated for low-income? Does low-income housing receive government funds? How are equal opportunity provisions of federal law enforced?

Thank you.

On Thu, Jun 11, 2015 at 12:40 PM, Cathy Herbert <cherbert87@gmail.com> wrote:

- > Having attended yesterday's meeting, I am in further opposition to annexation:
- > 1) the residents who applied for annexation have the option that the
- > rest of us do: move into the town/village/county that provides them
- > with the resources they want. I live in the M-W school district
- > because of the schools. Most of us choose our place of residence based
- > on what the locale offers and what we can afford. These individuals
- > should be treated no differently. A quick look at real estate listings
- > shows properties at various price points for sale in K-J.
- > 2) the services that these individuals say they need is already
- > available. Multiple commuter options are available in Monroe and

> adjacent communities that serve the NYC area. To base a need for
> annexation on potential future needs of commuters is inappropriate.
> Current services can simply be expanded.
> 3) annexation would place an inappropriate burden on firefighters in
> surrounding areas, especially if high-density properties are built and
> for which assurances of correct construction and meeting of codes
> applicable in the surrounding areas cannot be met. Annexation may
> result in significant dangers to firefighters in different locations.
> 4) current zoning laws protect all residents of Orange County.
> Annexation is, as others have stated, just an attempt to avoid zoning
> laws.
> 5) activities in KJ currently affect the health of the Ramapo River
> and impacts downstream communities. In light of this, further
> expansion of high-density housing is ill-advised and should not be
> approved--whether in KJ or in other nearby areas unless an
> environmentally satisfactory solution is found.
>
>
> There is no justification for annexation. It is not "smart" and it is
> not good for the entire region. No annexation or compromise related to
> annexation can be approved. To do so would be to bring grave harm to
> the environment and future of Orange County.

> Cathy Herbert
> 20 Fawn Hill Road
> Tuxedo, NY 10987
> 845 325 8274

> On Sat, Jun 6, 2015 at 7:38 PM, Cathy Herbert <cherbert87@gmail.com> wrote:
>> As a resident of the Monroe-Woodbury School District, I am in
>> complete opposition to the annexation, which will place properties
>> within Kiryas Joel in terms of zoning and development. It will,
>> however, leave many properties within the Monroe-Woodbury School District.
>>
>> This is unacceptable: Monroe-Woodbury School District should not
>> include residents of Kiryas Joel, who have demonstrated no
>> affiliation to or interest in, the public schools of the district. It
>> is unacceptable that these individuals will be able to vote in school
>> board elections and play any role in the decision-making process of
>> the Monroe-Woodbury School District.
>>
>> Kiryas Joel has its own school district; any annexation should, by
>> virtue of common sense and fairness, include annexation to the Kiryas
>> Joel school district.
>>
>> The current proposed arrangement poses significant threats to the
>> Monroe-Woodbury School District and the taxpaying residents, who are
>> not part of Kiryas Joel. It raises the threat of a take over and
>> dismantlement of the school system, similar to what has happened in
>> East Ramapo, with deleterious effects on quality of life, taxes, and
>> most of all, resulting in substandard education for children in
>> public schools and multiple lawsuits. In East Ramapo, state oversight

>> has been proposed, with entities such as the Anti-Defamation League
>> weighing in in support of such oversight. It is irresponsible to even
>> open up the possibility of such future events. For this reason alone,
>> annexation is against the best interests of the entire community and
>> must be rejected.

>>

>> The annexation must be denied, out of concerns for infrastructure,
>> water, traffic, sewer, education, and quality of life.

>>

>> Thank you.

>>

>> Cathy Herbert, Tuxedo