
Statement of Reasons for Change
Exhibit "D"

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The Town of Monroe has approximately 45,000 residents, making it the most populous town in Orange County. Over 60% of the Town's population resides in the Village of Kiryas Joel and its immediate vicinities on the north side of the NYS Route 17.

The vast majority of the residents of the Village of Kiryas Joel and its immediate vicinities are Satmar Chasidic Jews, who choose to reside in and around the Village to be close to family and friends that share their culture and language and to be close to schools that educate their kids and to kosher markets. In addition, most of the community's residents rely on the infrastructure and services unique to this community and not available in most other parts of the County including, among others, municipal sewer and water systems; local public safety; Yiddish speaking fire and emergency medical services; public and private schools; health services with an emphasis on women's and children's health; places of worship; ritual baths; pedestrian friendly neighborhoods with access to sidewalks, street lights, park and ride, and public transportation; community rooms; parks and play grounds; and multi-family affordable housing to accommodate large families. These public and community facilities and services that support higher density development and the unique cultural needs of the Kiryas Joel community are either provided directly or enabled through amenable zoning only in areas of the Town within the Village.

On the other hand, many residents in the Town of Monroe, living outside of the Village of Kiryas Joel on the south side of NYS Route 17, seek a more rural lifestyle with low density development and have opposed growth within the Village and its expansion through annexation. Many residents in the Town have expressed concern with the growth of the Village population and the effect of a concentrated block-vote by Village residents in the politics and administration of the Town of Monroe as well as the election, governance and budgeting of the Monroe-Woodbury School District. The Town has also openly expressed its inability and reluctance to provide for the above-noted public and community services to areas of the Town outside the Village.

These differing lifestyles have created tension between residents in the Village of Kiryas Joel and its immediate vicinities in the Town north of NYS Route 17 and those Town residents living south of NYS Route 17, both culturally and politically, for over two decades that could now be ameliorated by the division of the existing Town of Monroe into two separate towns. Separation of the Village of Kiryas Joel and its immediate vicinities from the Town of Monroe will allow each new town to decide which public and community services and facilities it may or may not need or want. Politically, the establishment of two separate towns would mean that the Kiryas Joel electorate would no longer vote in any of the Town of Monroe elections for its 9 public offices consisting of Supervisor, 4 Town Board Members, 2 Judges, Highway Superintendent and Clerk. The new town formation would also enable the future establishment of a coterminous Town of North Monroe and Village of Kiryas Joel consisting of a single governing board. In addition, the proposed change would facilitate the consolidation of the local fire districts as well as the alteration of the school district boundaries between the Monroe Woodbury and Kiryas Joel School Districts under Education Law section 1507 to align with the new town/village boundaries, alleviating the perceived burdens and concerns over the governance and budgeting of the Monroe Woodbury School District. Accordingly, the formation of a new town will be the first step toward achieving the broader ultimate objective of consolidation of a coterminous Town/Village/School District/Fire District.

In sum, the proposed change to separate the Village of Kiryas Joel and its immediate vicinities from the Town of Monroe by establishing a new Town of North Monroe, will allow both communities to separately co-exist while concurrently giving each community its separate character and identity and the choice to grow and develop as it sees fit.