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PUBLIC HEARING

-----X

ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
PETITION FOR DIVISION OF TOWN OF MONROE TO
CREATE TOWN OF PALM TREE (OR OTHER SUITABLE
NAME IDENTIFIED BY THE ORANGE County
LEGISLATURE) AND TOWN OF MONROE

August 15, 2017
6:30 P.M.
Central Valley Elementary
School Auditorium
45 Route 32
Central Valley, New York 10917

-----X

L. STEPHEN BRESCIA, CHAIRMAN
JEAN M. RAMPPEN, CLERK

DAVID CHURCH, COMMISSIONER OF PLANNING
ANTIONETTE GLUSZAK REED, ESQ.

LEGISLATORS

MATTHEW TURNBULL	THOMAS FAGGIONE
MICHAEL AMO	JAMES DISALVO
PAUL RUSZKIEWICZ	CHRISTOPHER EACHUS
CURLIE DILLARD	LEIGH BENTON
KATIE BONELLI	MIKE ANAGNOSTAKIS
BARRY CHENEY	JEFFREY BERKMAN
KEVIN HINES	JAMES O'DONNELL
ROSEANNE SULLIVAN	

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 MR. BRESCIA: I would like to
3 call the public hearing to order and
4 make mention of the two fire exits
5 right here and the two in the back of
6 the room.

7 Would the Clerk, please, read
8 the notice for public hearing?

9 MS. RAMPPEN: Notice for public
10 hearing of the Orange County
11 Legislature pursuant New York State
12 Town Law Section 73 alteration of
13 town boundaries with respect to a
14 petition for the division of the Town
15 of Monroe to create the new town of
16 Palm Tree or other suitable name
17 identified by the Orange County
18 Legislature and the Town of Monroe.

19 Notice is hereby given that the
20 Orange County Legislature will hold a
21 public hearing for the purposes of
22 soliciting public comments on
23 Tuesday, August 15, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.
24 at the Central Valley Elementary
25 School auditorium, 45 Route 32,

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 Central Valley, New York 10917 and
3 continuing thereafter on Wednesday,
4 August 16, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the
5 Bais Rachel Paradise Hall, 5 Israel
6 Zupnick Drive, Monroe, New York 10950
7 with respect to a Town Law Article 5
8 petition for Division of the Town of
9 Monroe, County of Orange, New York,
10 to create the new Town of Palm Tree
11 or other suitable name identified by
12 the County Legislature and the Town
13 of Monroe, filed with the Clerk of
14 the Orange County Legislature on
15 September 12, 2016, and an amendment
16 thereof, filed with the Clerk of the
17 Orange County Legislature on July 10,
18 2017, changing the name of the
19 proposed new town to the Town of Palm
20 Tree and revising the legal common
21 boundary description and map by
22 reducing the acreage of land. All of
23 which are available on the Orange
24 County website at
25 www.orangecountygov.com.

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 EXHIBIT A: The Town of Palm
3 Tree Common Boundary Description.

4 PREAMBLE: The new Town of Palm
5 Tree boundary description
6 incorporates all of the Village of
7 Kiryas Joel in its entirety and
8 assumes that the parcels and land
9 area as part of the recently approved
10 164 acre annexation of unincorporated
11 Town of Monroe into the Village of
12 Kiryas Joel are currently a legal
13 part of the Village of Kiryas Joel.

14 Thus, the proposed Town of Palm
15 Tree would consist of this new,
16 amended Kiryas Joel boundary
17 described in recent annexation
18 documents plus the area from the 27
19 parcels listed in the attached table
20 in addition to road area.

21 Generally, these parcels are
22 located in the northeastern portion
23 of the Town of Monroe, north of New
24 York State Route 17, west and
25 southwest in the Village of Kiryas

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 Joel as depicted on the attached map.

3 The acreage of the parcels and
4 adjacent road area is approximately
5 56 plus or minus acres. The new Town
6 of Palm Tree acreage will include
7 these 56 plus or minus acres plus the
8 899 plus or minus acres currently a
9 part of the Village of Kiryas Joel.

10 The total acreage of the new
11 Town of Palm Tree will be 945 plus or
12 minus acres.

13 Written comments on the
14 petition will be accepted through
15 close of business Thursday, August
16 17, 2017 and directed to Jean M.
17 Ramppen, Clerk of the Orange County
18 Legislature or by email to
19 Jramppen@orangecountygov.com.

20 Further notice is hereby given,
21 that copies of the petition for
22 division and exhibits are available
23 for inspection during usual business
24 hours at the office of the Clerk of
25 said County Legislature, 15 Matthews

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 Street, Suite 203, Goshen, New York
3 10924 and on the Orange County
4 website at www.orangecountygov.com.

5 This notice was published in
6 the July 24th, July 31st, August 7th
7 and August 14th issues of the Times
8 Herald Record at the direction of the
9 Town Clerk of the Town of Monroe.

10 Also, Notice of public hearing
11 regarding environmental assessment
12 review of the proposed division of
13 the Town of Monroe to create the new
14 Town of Palm Tree and the Town of
15 Monroe, pursuant to Town Law Article
16 5.

17 Notice is hereby given, that
18 the Orange County Legislature will
19 hold a public hearing for the
20 purposes of soliciting public
21 comments on Tuesday, August 15, 2017
22 at 6:30 p.m. at the Central Valley
23 Elementary School auditorium, 45
24 Route 32, Central Valley, New York
25 10917 and continuing thereafter on

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 Wednesday, August 16, 2017 at 6:30
3 p.m. at the Bais Rachel Paradise
4 Hall, 5 Israel Zupnick Drive, Monroe,
5 New York 10950, with respect to the
6 environmental assessment review of a
7 petition pursuant to Town Law Article
8 5 for the division of the Town of
9 Monroe to create the new town of Palm
10 Tree or other suitable name
11 identified by the County Legislature
12 and Town of Monroe under
13 consideration by the Orange County
14 Legislature.

15 The petition was filed with the
16 Clerk of the Orange County
17 Legislature on September 12, 2016,
18 and an amendment thereto was filed
19 with the Clerk on July 10, 2017,
20 changing the name of the proposed new
21 town to the Town of Palm Tree and
22 revising the legal common boundary
23 description and map by reducing the
24 acreage of land from 382 plus or
25 minus acres plus the Village of

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 Kiryas Joel as it existed at the time
3 of filing the petition on September
4 12, 2016 to 56 plus or minus acres
5 plus the Village of Kiryas Joel
6 inclusive of 164 plus or minus acres
7 of approved annexed lands.

8 Written comments on the
9 environmental assessment form will be
10 accepted through close of business
11 Thursday, August 17, 2017 and should
12 be directed to David E. Church, AICP,
13 Orange County Commissioner of
14 Planning, Department of Planning,
15 1887 County Building, 124 Main
16 Street, Goshen, New York 10924 or by
17 email to
18 www.dchurch@orangecountygov.com.

19 Further notice is hereby given
20 that original documents petition for
21 division, exhibits, amendments, maps
22 and full environmental assessment
23 form are available for inspection
24 during usual business hours at the
25 Office of the Clerk of the said

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 County Legislature, 15 Matthews
3 Street, Suite 203, Goshen, New York
4 10924 and copies thereof are
5 available on the Orange County
6 website at www.orangecoutygove.com.

7 This notice was published in
8 the August 9th issue of the Hudson
9 Valley Press, Wallkill Valley and
10 Mid-Hudson Times and the August 11th
11 issues of the Orange County Post,
12 Warwick Advertiser, Monroe Photo
13 News, The Chronicle, The News of the
14 Highlands, The Cornwall Local and the
15 Gazette.

16 MR. BRESCIA: Thank you, Jean.
17 The Clerk will dispense with the
18 reading of the boundary description.
19 That will be taken up by Commissioner
20 of Planning, David Church, in a few
21 minutes.

22 Good evening. My name is L.
23 Stephen Brescia, Chairman of the
24 Orange County Legislature from
25 District 9.

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 I would like to welcome you to
3 the public hearing on the petition
4 for the Division of the Town of
5 Monroe to create the new Town of Palm
6 Tree or any other name, suitable
7 name, identified by the Orange County
8 Legislature and the Town of Monroe.

9 The Legislature will hear
10 public comment, and we will continue
11 the public hearing tomorrow night at
12 6:30 at the Bais Rachel Paradise
13 Hall, 5 Israel Zupnick Drive in
14 Monroe.

15 We will gladly accept written
16 comments before the close of business
17 on Thursday, August 17, 2017.

18 I just want to say that the
19 public will be introduced by the
20 Clerk in twos. Please, give your
21 name and the town in which you
22 reside at the time you come up to
23 speak, and we are going to stick to
24 the three minute rule. We are not
25 going to have a grace period where we

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 occasionally have at the regular
3 monthly meetings. There are a lot of
4 speakers that want to speak tonight,
5 and please try to stick to the
6 subject matter on the vote for the
7 referendum that we are going to allow
8 or not allow on a September 7th vote.
9 Let's not get off on any side tracks,
10 please. Okay.

11 I'll introduce the attorney for
12 the Orange County Legislature,
13 Antionette Gluszak.

14 MS. GLUSZAK: Thank you,
15 Mr. Chairman, and thank you all for
16 coming this evening.

17 I'll just briefly go over the
18 petition with you to describe the
19 process as to how we got to where we
20 are today.

21 I will just note that the
22 public hearing today is only with
23 respect to the petition that was
24 filed with the Orange County
25 Legislature. This public hearing has

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 nothing to do with any agreement,
3 settlement agreement between Preserve
4 Hudson Valley, United Monroe and
5 Kiryas Joel. If you want information
6 regarding that settlement agreement,
7 I urge you to look at United Monroe's
8 Facebook account or speak with Emily
9 Convears, John Legram or Mr. Michael
10 Egan.

11 Just an overview of the
12 petition on the petition for the
13 division of the Town of Monroe,
14 County of Orange, New York pursuant
15 to Town Law Article 5 to create a new
16 town and Town of Monroe, was filed
17 with the Clerk of the Orange County
18 Legislature on September 12th, 2016,
19 and an amendment thereof was filed on
20 July 10th, 2017 requesting to change
21 the name of the proposed new town to
22 the Town of Palm Tree and revising
23 the legal common boundary description
24 and map by reducing the acreage of
25 land. The documents are available on

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 the Orange County website.

3 The petition purports to be
4 signed by duly qualified electors of
5 the Town of Monroe, Orange County,
6 New York, representing not less than
7 five percent of the total votes cast
8 for governor in the town at the last
9 general election of state offices.

10 The petition is comprised of
11 183 pages containing a total of
12 approximately 2,420 signatures.

13 The petition has the following
14 exhibits attached to it.

15 Exhibits A & B, were the metes
16 and bounds description and a map
17 depicting the new Town of Palm Tree.

18 Exhibit C was the Statement of
19 Indebtedness for the Town of Monroe
20 for the fiscal year ending December
21 31, 2014, as certified by Town of
22 Monroe Chief Fiscal Officer, Peter
23 Martin.

24 Exhibit D was the Statement of
25 Reasons for Change to separate the

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 Village of Kiryas Joel and it's
3 immediate vicinities of 56 plus or
4 minus acres from the Town of Monroe
5 to establish a new Town of Palm Tree
6 so as to allow both communities to
7 separately coexist based upon
8 cultural and family lifestyles,
9 educational institutions, community
10 facilities and infrastructure needs,
11 political and governmental autonomy.

12 In accordance with the New York
13 State Law, the Orange County
14 Commissioners for the Board of
15 Elections calculated that the
16 petition required the signatures of
17 541 qualified electors of the Town of
18 Monroe to be valid.

19 No specific or general
20 objections were filed to the petition
21 but for a letter dated October 6,
22 2016, by the law firm, Zarin &
23 Steinmetz, representing Preserve
24 Hudson Valley.

25 On October 11th, 2016, the

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 Clerk of the Legislature issued a
3 certificate of the filing of the
4 petition which was posted on the
5 Orange County website.

6 On July 20th, 2017, the Clerk
7 of the Legislature received a letter
8 from a petitioner's agent, Gedlaye
9 Szegegin, amending the petition by
10 withdrawing Exhibits A, the Legal
11 Description and B, the Map, outlining
12 the boundaries of the division of
13 lands from the Town of Monroe, so
14 that it would be comprised of the
15 Village of Kiryas Joel inclusive of
16 the approved annexed 164 plus or
17 minus acres of land and an additional
18 56 plus or minus acres.

19 Agent Szegegin also requested
20 the name of the new town to be Town
21 of Palm Tree and removed the name of
22 Town of North Monroe.

23 On May 15, 2017, petitioner's
24 agent submitted Part 1 of a Full
25 Environmental Assessment Form along

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 with a letter from the law firm of
3 Whiteman Osterman & Hanna, LLP,
4 stating in quotes, "It is the
5 Petitioner's position that the County
6 Legislature's determination on the
7 Article 5 petition allowing the
8 proposition to go to the electorate
9 for a vote on town formation, is not
10 an action subject to review under the
11 State Environmental Quality Review
12 Act."

13 On June 1st, 2017, by
14 Resolution No. 123 of 2017 this
15 Legislature preliminarily typed the
16 Action as an Unlisted Action, under
17 SEQRA and requested the Orange County
18 Commissioner of Planning to review
19 Part I of the Full EAF prepared by
20 the petitioners and to prepare Part
21 II and a draft Part III of the form
22 for review and consideration by the
23 Rules Committee at its June 21, 2017,
24 meeting.

25 Commissioner Church revised the

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 EAF in accordance with the amended
3 petition and submitted that document
4 to the Clerk of the Legislature on
5 August 2, 2017. The Full EAF is
6 available for public viewing on the
7 Orange County website.

8 Notice of this public hearing
9 regarding the EAF was published in
10 the Orange County official newspapers
11 as reported by the Clerk.

12 The Orange County Legislature
13 is in receipt of a letter dated
14 August 11, 2017, by Richard B.
15 Golden, Esquire, an attorney writing
16 on behalf to a local municipal group
17 opposing the Kiryas Joel annexation
18 informing the Legislature of the
19 importance of conducting a thorough
20 environmental review prior to the
21 Legislature's decision on the pending
22 petition to form the new Town of Palm
23 Tree and requesting that each of the
24 participating municipalities be
25 listed as an interested agency.

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 Resolution No. 124 of 2017 set
3 this public hearing. In accordance
4 with Town Law Section 73, the Clerk
5 of the Town of Monroe caused
6 publication of the notice of this
7 public hearing in the Times Herald
8 Record as reported by the Clerk of
9 the Legislature.

10 All public hearing comments,
11 correspondence and documents will be
12 considered by all Legislatures at the
13 Rules, Enactments and
14 Intergovernmental Relations meeting
15 on August 23, 2017. That meeting
16 will be held at the Orange County
17 Emergency Operations Center, 22 Wells
18 Farm Road, Goshen, New York at
19 approximately 3:30 p.m.

20 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21 MR. BRESCIA: Thank you. Next
22 up I would like to introduce David
23 Church, the Commissioner of Planning
24 for the County of Orange, for an
25 overview of the map and environmental

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 review.

3 MR. CHURCH: Welcome everybody
4 this evening. My name is David
5 Church. I'm the Commissioner of
6 Planning in Orange County. My office
7 is providing technical assistance to
8 the Legislature in their review of
9 this proposed action.

10 As proposed for the Town of
11 Palm Tree there are maps available in
12 print format, and we could get more
13 to people if a lot of people are gone
14 now. There's also one on the board
15 in front of the table here and one in
16 the lobby.

17 The petitioner's propose for
18 the new town includes the entire
19 existing Village of Kiryas Joel which
20 for legal purposes and clarity now
21 does include the 164 acres of annexed
22 property plus or minus.

23 So, the current proposal for
24 the new town is the existing village
25 plus 56 acres approximately and

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 that's shown by the yellow parcels
3 outlined on the map.

4 To clarify some confusion in
5 the far eastern portion of the
6 proposal there is a strip of land.
7 That strip of land the petitioners
8 saw it necessary to ensure that lands
9 remaining in the existing Town of
10 Monroe stay contiguous. So, that
11 makes a connection to some existing
12 acreage.

13 That map is also available as
14 noted earlier directly on the
15 County's home page attached to the
16 public notices for all hearings
17 tonight and tomorrow.

18 Additionally the County is
19 treating this proposed action as what
20 we call an Unlisted Action for
21 environmental review under the State
22 Environmental Quality Review Act.

23 We prepared a draft, a Full
24 Environmental Assessment Form. It's
25 approximately 30 some pages with some

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 additional approximately 16 page
3 narrative. That's in draft form for
4 review and comment both on line and
5 available at the offices mentioned
6 earlier by the Clerk.

7 To highlight some of the
8 potential impacts that we've
9 identified related to the town, they
10 include the potential impact to the
11 County owned and operated Gonzaga
12 Park; potential impacts the Long
13 Path/Long Range Regional Walking
14 Trail; potential impacts to an
15 unnamed tributary of the Ramapo
16 River, which comes out of the Village
17 of Kiryas Joel, as well as a series
18 of what we call growth-inducing
19 impacts associated with services and
20 infrastructure notably with provision
21 of water and sewer service.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. BRESCIA: Thank you, David.
24 Before I further comment, I would
25 like to introduce the County

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 Executive to say a few words, Steven
3 Neuhaus.

4 MR. NEUHAUS: Thank you,
5 Mr. Chairman. It's good to see a
6 strong showing of support for the
7 community out there showing for and
8 against this.

9 What we're talking about
10 tonight is really one issue, whether
11 the County Legislature should approve
12 a resolution to let the voters of the
13 Town of Monroe decide on this
14 referendum. That's the decision
15 tonight.

16 I was born and raised and spent
17 over half of my life in Monroe. I
18 actually went to school in this
19 school here when it was middle school
20 not too long ago.

21 I want to talk about a couple
22 of quick things because I know the
23 time is ticking.

24 The process, I heard some
25 complaints about the process. There

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 were a couple of legislators, Myrna
3 Kemnitz and Mike Amo, as well as the
4 Chairman involved in this process.
5 Those three legislators represented
6 their area and then on the other side
7 I went to two meetings in total for
8 this; one with the Village of Kiryas
9 Joel representatives and United
10 Monroe.

11 What was the alternative? Have
12 Harley Doles negotiate on behalf of
13 the town. The decision would have
14 been made by itself. So, that's the
15 end of the process part.

16 Here's what I think are the
17 advantages; number one, give the rest
18 of the Town of Monroe a chance to
19 recalculate, beef up its zoning, work
20 on getting some open space money to
21 preserve and make buffers which
22 hasn't been done in Monroe, Blooming
23 Grove or Woodbury. That would help
24 preserve the southern part of Orange
25 County.

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 The other thing it would allow
3 us to do it would remove the voting
4 bloc. For over decades the voting
5 bloc has controlled the Town of
6 Monroe board allowing the zoning to
7 be ignored and ignored to where we
8 are today. It's a political
9 Chernobyl that's spewing over the
10 borders of the other nearby towns
11 and what we see in Blooming Grove,
12 and you can see what's going on in
13 Woodbury.

14 What are the alternatives? Are
15 we going to allow the State of New
16 York and Washington, D.C. to support
17 us? They haven't. Where has the DEC
18 been on this?

19 Then you also have continued
20 lawsuits. The only people that I've
21 seen that have made out over the last
22 20 years are lawyers. Are we better
23 off now with what is going on in the
24 Village of Kiryas Joel and what's
25 going on where we are today. It's

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 gotten worse and worse folks.

3 Then you talk about United
4 Monroe. United Monroe whether you
5 criticize them or not they have shown
6 a way to at least sit down and get
7 something done. It may not be
8 perfect, but it's the first step.
9 It's a lesson to nearby towns and
10 villages to do the same thing. You
11 want an agreement to protect your
12 town, sit down and negotiate and then
13 the last thing, because I don't want
14 to run out of time, Ronald Regan said
15 Trust but Verify.

16 In November I believe -- I see
17 you out there Tony. I think Tony
18 Cardone will be our next Town
19 Supervisor for the Town of Monroe.

20 Between now and November if we
21 disagree on this, Tony, you and Mike,
22 who will beat that perk of being
23 controlled by the Bosco vote. You
24 guys can come out and say let's kick
25 this and let's beat this.

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 That's what we are talking
3 about here folks. I don't need any
4 notes. I got a couple of bullet
5 marks. I know this issue like the
6 back of my hand.

7 We have an opportunity today.
8 Legislators, I think you got the --
9 and I wish you luck on your decision.
10 Thank you.

11 MR. BRESCIA: Thank you. The
12 Clerk is going to call up two
13 speakers at a time, three minutes.
14 When you get to the three-minute mark
15 I'm going to say next speaker. So,
16 please stop at three minutes. Okay?

17 Oh, introduce the legislators.
18 I'm sorry.

19 James O'Donnell, from the Town
20 of Goshen; Paul Ruszkiewicz from the
21 Town of Wawayanda; Curlie Dillard
22 from the City of Newburgh; Barry
23 Cheney from the Town of Warwick; John
24 Vero from the Village of Chester and
25 represents northern Warwick, as well;

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 Matt Turnbull, Minority Leader; Kevin
3 Hines from Cornwall; Tom Faggione
4 from Deer Park and Port Jervis; Chris
5 Eachus from New Windsor; Leigh Benton
6 from the Town of Newburgh; Mike
7 Anagnostakis from the Town of
8 Newburgh; Jeff Berkman from the City
9 of Middletown; Michael Amo from
10 District 1, Town of Monroe; Katie
11 Bonelli from the Town of Blooming
12 Grove; James DiSalvo from the Town of
13 Highlands and representatives from
14 the Town of Monroe.

15 MS. RAMPPEN: The next speaker
16 will be Michael Egan followed by
17 Michael Sussman.

18 MICHAEL EGAN: (Monroe)
19 I'm Michael Egan. Thanks for
20 holding this hearing. Many of you
21 I've met and those I haven't met I'm
22 looking forward to.

23 I've lived in this Town of
24 Monroe for 35 years, raised three
25 kids, all went through this school

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 district, had great experiences and
3 proof of that is they're all on their
4 own, living on their own.

5 The Town of Monroe needs some
6 help. The Town of Monroe has
7 problems that no other town in this
8 county has. At that end, it has
9 26,000 residents living in the
10 village that aspires to urban style
11 living; identify housing, resources
12 and send their kids to private
13 school. Everybody else, virtually
14 everybody else, the other 22,000
15 people in the town aspire to
16 basically the opposite quality of
17 life. They moved here for suburban
18 living, rural living and public
19 schools.

20 This dichotomy has resulted in
21 a struggle for the town board, town
22 government because the town
23 government controls all the
24 resources. It controls zoning. It
25 controls money, tax money, so on and

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 so forth and that struggle has led to
3 dysfunction in this town while other
4 towns have progressed and we look
5 around and see good things happening
6 in other places. We can't do that in
7 this town because it's a struggle and
8 it's a stalemate. The solution is at
9 hand, it's Palm Tree.

10 Separation equals independence,
11 Kiryas Joel so it can go pursue its
12 destiny and for the rest of the Town
13 of Monroe so that it can pursue its
14 destiny, stop fighting, put the
15 energy in to progress, in to creating
16 opportunity, jobs and hope and move
17 forward.

18 In 1990 this school district
19 did exactly what we want to do. That
20 is the model. They separated from
21 the Village of Kiryas Joel because
22 they knew that they were going to
23 have this very problem.

24 And you know what, you won't
25 find a person in this room who

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 doesn't say thank God they did
3 because if they didn't do that we
4 would be East Ramapo.

5 So, we are asking you to do the
6 same thing, do it again, save the
7 school district again and save the
8 town.

9 So, on behalf of the thousands
10 of residents of the town who have
11 worked for five years, five years to
12 get to this point and team up the
13 separation, rebuild their town, save
14 their school district and move
15 forward, I ask this legislature to
16 vote yes, pass it down to the
17 citizens of Monroe to vote on the
18 town referendum. Thank you.

19 MICHAEL SUSSMAN: (Chester)

20 Good evening, Michael Sussman
21 from Chester. I'm here tonight as a
22 constitutional lawyer who's spent
23 nearly 40 years practicing and
24 studying constitutional law.

25 I represented citizens in

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 Kiryas Joel between 1990 to 2011 and
3 through struggles for more than 20
4 years.

5 In 1997 a Federal judge asked
6 me whether my clients wanted it
7 ordered dissolving the Village of
8 Kiryas Joel because the proofs before
9 them so clearly established that the
10 Village of Kiryas Joel was a
11 theocracy; that is the government is
12 controlled by the majority religious
13 action, its Grand Rabbi, and
14 atheoretical goes to anyone else
15 particularly those (inaudible).

16 Creating a village or town
17 group, a particular religious group
18 violates one of the most fundamental
19 principles which binds us.

20 The establishment clause of the
21 first amendment, creating a new
22 religious town echoes the precedent
23 set 40 years ago when the village was
24 carved out of the Town of Monroe to
25 wit; that the state may create

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 separate puritanical subdivisions on
3 the basis of religion or race or any
4 other such characters.

5 When I say precedent, I mean
6 this; next year African Americans
7 from Newburgh, Latinos from
8 Middletown assert their preference or
9 perhaps their rights, based on this
10 example, to set up a separate
11 community where they have indemnity.

12 Perhaps White families
13 concerned about increasing minority
14 population in some areas of our
15 county to petition their own
16 community.

17 This factualization is
18 precisely what our founders railed
19 against in the Federalist papers and
20 indeed explains why the establishment
21 causes this.

22 I have no doubt the party
23 disagreement under discussion and
24 this particular referendum have
25 reasons for separation. You just

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 heard some of them, but these
3 preferences, however valid, have to
4 bale our constitutional order and all
5 hope for an integrated future in
6 which each person, man, woman, child
7 is valued for who she is, not
8 primarily identified by religion or
9 race and that makes no mistake about
10 the American dream that we share.

11 Tonight we must provoke several
12 things. Kiryas Joel Yeshiva
13 Education Law and provides three
14 hours of secular education for their
15 students. Their young must be
16 exposed to and allow -- to their
17 neighbors and fellow residents.

18 Kiryas Joel's neighbors
19 recognize it. The Town of Monroe may
20 have a religions majority but that
21 does not foreclose dialogue
22 coexistence and does not justify
23 further sanctions for state-created
24 separation, and that the new town
25 should not be created if doing so

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 establishes a state religion in a
3 state sponsored, state created
4 jurisdiction which is blatantly
5 unconstitutional.

6 Thank you.

7 MS. RAMPPEN: We have two
8 microphones on either side of the
9 auditorium so whatever mic is
10 convenient, please, use that.

11 The next speaker is John Salka
12 followed by Elsie Rodriguez.

13 JOHN SALKA: (Blooming Grove)

14 Hello, my name is John Salka.
15 I'm a 35 year resident of the Town of
16 Blooming Grove. I'm a member of the
17 group Preserve Blooming Grove, and
18 I'm here to enthusiastically urge the
19 Orange County Legislature to vote yes
20 to allow the people of Monroe to vote
21 on their own political future. Let
22 them vote.

23 MS. RAMPPEN: The next speaker
24 after Elsie Rodriguez is Jonathan
25 Chase.

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 ELSIE RODRIGUEZ: Good evening.
3 My name is Elsie Rodriguez. I'm the
4 Superintendent of Schools for the
5 Monroe Woodbury Central School
6 District. Thank you for giving me
7 this opportunity to speak.

8 For the past several years the
9 school district has been analyzing
10 the potential short and long term
11 impacts of the annexation of land to
12 the Village of Kiryas Joel.

13 Initially our studies were
14 surrounding two scenarios; one that
15 considered 164 acres and another that
16 considered 507 acres.

17 In recent weeks we've been
18 asked to gather relevant data and to
19 relate it to another scenario, 164
20 acres with an additional 56 acres to
21 create a new town of Palm Tree.

22 The essential question is if
23 the district should continue the
24 course of action established in the
25 early 1990s of maintaining the

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 culture and its boundaries between
3 the municipality and the school
4 district.

5 Please note that the school
6 district is committed to doing what
7 is best for our students and tax
8 payers.

9 The Board of Education will be
10 making a final decision when we are
11 confident that we have done our due
12 diligence.

13 My responsibility as
14 Superintendent of Schools is to
15 always put our students first and
16 families and that is what I do each
17 and every day.

18 I believe that our community
19 expects the school district to
20 consider all the factors before
21 making a formal recommendation on
22 whether to move boundary lines.

23 At a special board meeting
24 tomorrow night we will update the
25 members of the Board of Education

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 with the most recent findings. This
3 issue will be discussed at the
4 regular Board of Education meeting
5 scheduled for Wednesday, August 23rd
6 for public comments. Clear and
7 concise information is critical
8 moving forward and for that reason
9 the district has a boundary line
10 alteration feed on our website with
11 the most recent correspondence
12 related to this issue.

13 Rest assured the district's
14 focus has been and continues to be
15 the students we serve and the tax
16 payers who live in our district.
17 Thank you.

18 MS. RAMPPEN: The next speakers
19 after Jonathan Chase will be Mike
20 Goldstein and Nancy Bryan.

21 JONATHAN CHASE: (Cornwall)
22 Good evening, Mr. Chairman,
23 legislators, members of the
24 administration, fellow citizens.

25 My name is Jonathan Chase.

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 I've lived in the Town of Cornwall
3 since 2006, and I'm to join Mr.
4 Sussman in striking a blow for the
5 United States Constitution.

6 We should be ever mindful of
7 doing things the right way, not
8 necessarily the most expedient way.

9 I speak from the experience of
10 having represented the petitioners in
11 the village election case in 2014 in
12 Bloomingburg where after village
13 boundaries were moved, a fraud was
14 committed in a village election that
15 resulted in the guilty pleas and the
16 impending sentences of several people
17 who were involved with that and with
18 the project that was involved with
19 that for the village boundary
20 movement.

21 So, moving boundaries began a
22 nightmare in Bloomingburg which
23 continues to this day and which has
24 had irrevocable consequences. So,
25 what may look easy and slick and easy

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 to do, may be the beginning of
3 another legal nightmare that may have
4 far reaching implications.

5 The first amendment that
6 Mr. Sussman noted prohibits the
7 respecting an establishment of
8 religion, that's any religion. You
9 can't make a jurisdictional boundary
10 to favor a religion. You just can't
11 do it. It's unconstitutional,
12 however convenient it may be.

13 So, the Pilgrims, the Puritans,
14 the Quakers, the Amish, they came to
15 this country to escape religious
16 control of governments, not to come
17 and make deals to create them.

18 So, the very name of the Town
19 of Palm Tree overtly suggests that
20 this is being tailored for a
21 religious group. And yet the County
22 Executive in his remarks a moment ago
23 quite clearly stated that all though
24 only the citizens of the Town of
25 Monroe will vote on this referendum

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 that you are about to decide whether
3 they may, they he said, and I'm
4 quoting him, said that this will
5 create a political Chernobyl spewing
6 over the boarders to neighboring
7 towns. By the way, neighboring towns
8 will have no vote in this referendum;
9 no say in the matter.

10 I respectfully submit that this
11 whole concept is unconstitutional by
12 way of the clause and it is the
13 question facing you, as legislators,
14 is not whether this is something that
15 you can do; it's whether it's
16 something that you should do, even
17 putting aside the constitutional
18 question. I urge you vote in the
19 negative. Thank you.

20 MIKE GOLDSTEIN: (Monroe)
21 Good evening, Mike Goldstein.
22 Good evening, Mike Goldstein, Town of
23 Monroe.

24 1905, philosopher George
25 Santayana wrote, those who cannot

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 remember the past are condemned to
3 repeat it.

4 On September 30, 1938 the Prime
5 Minister of England after meetings
6 for the third time with (inaudible)
7 Clad.

8 My good friends this is the
9 second time there has been come backs
10 from Germany to Townsend Street.
11 Peace with honor. I believe there is
12 peace for our town.

13 Monroe's own incarnate of never
14 changeable has spewed similar remarks
15 at town board meetings about this
16 deal.

17 In 1938, Czechoslovakia was not
18 consulted about the land they would
19 concede to Germany to reach a
20 (inaudible) and to note the
21 similarities of what's going on now
22 and what happened in the past. How
23 is this any different than what
24 happened in 1938.

25 Were the other municipalities

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 that are involved in lawsuits over
3 the KJ accusations ever consulted, I
4 do not think so.

5 Did Monroe's town board led by
6 three members elected by United
7 Monroe and the KJ alliance ever
8 discuss their lack of (inaudible) at
9 these negotiations. The answer is
10 no.

11 How many members of the Orange
12 County Legislature know all the
13 details of the proposed new town.
14 Ramifications of the creation of a
15 new town have far reaching
16 implications for all of Orange County
17 not just Monroe. Until all of the
18 ramifications about this issue are
19 understood, I urge you to not put the
20 issue on the ballot this November.

21 This should not be another
22 piece of legislature we have to vote
23 for to find out all of the details in
24 the agreement and its implications of
25 the Town of Monroe and Orange County.

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 I'll stop there. I don't want
3 to get too political. Thank you.

4 MS. RAMPPEN: Following Nancy
5 Bryan is Christine Tucker, followed
6 by Lorraine Loening.

7 NANCY BRYAN: (Cornwall)

8 Nancy Bryan, Town of Cornwall.
9 The issue of resources specifically
10 water is primary on my mind. I am
11 not here to dispute the pros and cons
12 or creating a new town, unless the
13 new town sucks the life out of
14 someone else's water supply.

15 I've yet to see in any of the
16 public documents explaining where the
17 new town will be getting its water
18 from and where the waste water will
19 be going.

20 What exactly are the plans and
21 where might anyone find those
22 documents. If I was voting on this,
23 I would want to know that.

24 When I raised the question on
25 social media the response was less

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 than pleasant and that's an
3 understatement.

4 The water issue is primary on
5 my mind. While Monroe folks might
6 like this and think they have
7 achieved, those of us down the road
8 need guarantees that our water supply
9 won't be gone.

10 I'm speaking more specifically
11 about the well in Mountainville. I
12 go back to the 2015 hearing about the
13 well. I read the permit application
14 supplied by the DEC in its entirety
15 prior to that meeting. It was too
16 easy for even me, a non-expert, to
17 see the lies, like not taking echo
18 system of movement into consideration
19 and to not question the drawdown
20 test, 24 hours, not 72, which I found
21 out was the industry standard in
22 which during the 24 hours of the well
23 test people in Mountainville
24 experienced greatly diminished
25 capacity from their wells and found

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 out why afterward. Yet the DEC
3 granted permission for this well.
4 The pro annexation group doesn't seem
5 to want this brought up. If that
6 well was activated and used to
7 capacity and who knows maybe beyond
8 the 620,000 gallons a day people in
9 Mountainville across Route 32 at the
10 very least will have no water.

11 Beyond that people in the
12 Angola Road and Mineral Springs area
13 will probably also see no water as
14 the aquifer is drawn down, and those
15 of us on Quaker Avenue who rely on
16 the well might also be affected as we
17 are all on the same aquifer; then
18 what. We have the right to have
19 water and to not have our property
20 rendered useless (inaudible) to
21 someone else's greed.

22 There are no water mains out
23 there. Properties will have zero
24 values. Maybe for several thousand
25 dollars water might be available.

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 For those of us close to water
3 mains, who pays the cost for that and
4 who bears the cost for paying for
5 municipal water each month when we
6 never had to.

7 Many people do not realize just
8 how much of the Cornwall
9 Mountainville area is actually on
10 well water.

11 From just past the start of
12 Angola Road to town the municipal
13 water system ends.

14 Mountainville residents have
15 always relied on their wells.

16 Legislators, I would hope that
17 the water question is answered to the
18 satisfaction of everyone particularly
19 those of us who live north of here.

20 I would hope just like groups
21 in Monroe who insist on guarantees on
22 both sides, everyone realizes the
23 right to those of us to continue our
24 lives as we know it, to continue to
25 live with our properties maintaining

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 their value and to continue to have
3 our water supply made available to us
4 as it has been for in excess of 150
5 years is as important as any other
6 issue here.

7 Without guaranteeing to all of
8 us, the folks in the north, that the
9 water will be taken from us, thereby
10 decimating us so that new communities
11 can be built on our hardships of
12 those in Mountainville and Cornwall,
13 I ask that you not vote yes without
14 knowing that the water supply and oh,
15 yes, the waste water, will not have a
16 negative and earth shattering affect
17 on others. No one has the right to
18 take from others so that they may
19 flourish. Thank you.

20 CHRISTINE TUCKER: (Monroe)

21 Christine Tucker, Town of
22 Monroe. Good evening. I'm
23 requesting that Orange County
24 Legislature vote no to having a
25 request for a new town on the

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 November 2017 ballot.

3 Why not wait until all the
4 impacts are revealed and then vote.

5 The impacts on Monroe and
6 Orange County have yet to be
7 determined by (inaudible).

8 Inclusive of other aspects of
9 the residents as information comes to
10 light, the Town of Monroe will be
11 losing revenue through property taxes
12 and additional revenue to the tune of
13 \$1.7 million and 880,000 estimated to
14 the Monroe Woodbury Central School
15 District, with financial numbers
16 consistently changing.

17 As building occurs astronomical
18 revenue will be lost to the Town of
19 Monroe.

20 The agreement between
21 (inaudible) is not agreed to by the
22 Town of Monroe government but by a
23 political group that does not
24 represent me.

25 Political agreements do not

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 supersede New York State annexation
3 laws which are guaranteed by the
4 state laws and cannot be taken away
5 by political agreements.

6 The Full Environmental
7 Assessment Form lacks information
8 pertaining to the property.

9 In the second of new demands
10 for water where the applicant
11 describes the extension of water
12 capacity expansion proposed to
13 surface project the answer is unknown
14 but village water district service
15 areas likely to be expanded to
16 include the new town and water supply
17 lines constructed as needed, but
18 there have been numerous articles
19 that KJ runs out of water. On the
20 FEIS when asked about liquid waste,
21 total anticipated liquid waste
22 generation per day 130,800 per day.
23 The applicant answered no to is the
24 expansion of the district needed.

25 I don't see how you can move so

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 much property in to a new town
3 boundary and not have an expansion,
4 but describe extension or capacity
5 expansion proposed. At this time
6 existing sewer lines serve the
7 project area and Orange County
8 Department of Public Works confirms
9 that capacity exists for new
10 residential development on first come
11 first serve basis.

12 Should Palm Tree form their own
13 sewer district and water supply;
14 should they have the ability to issue
15 sewer permits currently billed by
16 Orange County, thus regulating market
17 place. What affect will this have on
18 anyone who wishes to build anywhere
19 else. Unless KJ/Palm Tree gives the
20 approval Orange County always had
21 this power.

22 I see no reason to rush in to
23 creating a new town without giving
24 all residents (inaudible) communities
25 all the information on the impacts to

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 their communities and Orange County.

3 The request for a new town is
4 serious. It has not been done in a
5 hundred years. Why? All impacts
6 should be revealed before it goes on
7 a ballot for the community to decide.
8 No one can make a decision. No one
9 can make an informed decision when
10 the requests lack all the information
11 to make an informed decision.

12 Thank you.

13 MS. RAMPEN: Following
14 Lorraine Leoning is Diane Egan
15 followed by Brad Tucker.

16 LORRAINE LOENING: (Monroe)

17 Good evening. Lorraine
18 Loening, Town of Monroe.

19 I am asking the town
20 legislators to slow down the process
21 and not put the creation of the Town
22 of Palm Tree on the ballot this
23 November. This might be a great
24 deal, a bad deal or (inaudible) but I
25 don't know. As there are few

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 (inaudible) that remain in the Town
3 of Monroe or the Monroe Woodbury
4 School District after the creation of
5 Palm Tree.

6 (Inaudible) on the ballot which
7 (inaudible) and the referendum will
8 be expected to pass.

9 Before it goes to ballot I am
10 going to urge you to find out
11 answers, ask questions (inaudible)
12 Monroe Woodbury School District and
13 BOCES (inaudible) state level.

14 (Inaudible) in the Town of
15 Monroe and the Monroe Woodbury School
16 District. If there's no increase in
17 the burden, then can we expect a
18 decrease in services from the town.
19 And less of the brunt of programming,
20 electives and extracurricular
21 activities that make for a meaningful
22 school experience.

23 And this doesn't even try to
24 address the environmental impact and
25 while the impact would be felt in the

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 Town of Monroe and the Monroe
3 Woodbury School District first.

4 Make no mistake that eventually
5 it's going to impact Middletown and
6 Deer park and Montgomery and the
7 whole rest of the County.

8 County taxes are going to rise
9 (inaudible) community.

10 Don't you want to know that
11 number, what that provides and how
12 much it's going to cost now, five
13 years from now, ten years and out.
14 Don't you want to know how much this
15 is going to cost your constituents.
16 I would want to know because I am one
17 of the constituents.

18 So, I ask you to get answers to
19 these questions before you consider
20 putting it on the ballot.

21 (Inaudible) November
22 (inaudible) special election. This
23 is really important and I'm asking
24 you to do it right and not fast.

25 MS. RAMPPEN: Following Diane

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 Egan is Tom Kemnitz.

3 DIANE EGAN: (Monroe)

4 My name is Diane Egan. I'm a
5 resident of the Town of Monroe. I
6 have been for the past 36 years. I
7 raised my children here. They all
8 attended Monroe Woodbury School
9 District, proud graduates. We are
10 proud Monroe residents. This is my
11 hometown. We have a wonderful place
12 to raise children, but I'm thinking
13 of the future, not the past. We have
14 a problem here in Monroe. And I'm
15 asking the Orange County Legislature
16 to vote yes on separation and let
17 Monroe of the past have a future.
18 That's really what this is about.

19 For the past five years I've
20 become involved in the political
21 struggles in Monroe. I'm an advocate
22 for causes of candidates one of the
23 most common (inaudible) from long
24 time natives and residents is why
25 bother, Monroe is over, it's a done

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 deal. And the words that I hear all
3 the time is we're getting out.

4 They talk about packing up.
5 They talk about selling homes and
6 getting out. They see no future for
7 Monroe. There's a lack of economic
8 competence also evidenced by our less
9 than thriving downtown and it all
10 stems from the same motion, that it's
11 over for Monroe. It's just a matter
12 of time, why bother. I hear it over
13 and over again. It doesn't have to
14 be.

15 This proposed separation will
16 click the Town of Monroe on an equal
17 footing to many other surrounding
18 neighborhood towns.

19 Towns like Warwick, Goshen all
20 which are tracking businesses and
21 have a positive economic environment.
22 It's not just in Monroe and it's all
23 because people fear the future.

24 The Town of Monroe needs to be
25 free from control of the town

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 government without electoral
3 dominance by the village within the
4 town. The village which may have
5 different (inaudible) zoning or
6 economic development.

7 There are those in the audience
8 and those on stage who have publicly
9 stated that they hope because they
10 didn't like the progress. To rule on
11 asking that you put that aside and
12 instead focus on the substance in the
13 agreement.

14 If you have objections to the
15 process that wasn't public, all the
16 more reasons to vote yes.

17 Approval means moving this on
18 to a very public process, debate,
19 airing all sides of the issues. What
20 would be more democratic and open
21 than a vote for referendum. And this
22 is what we're asking you to do.

23 Don't kill this agreement in
24 the name of transparency and in doing
25 so deny the people of Monroe the

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 right to vote and decide their own
3 future.

4 Others have raised very
5 important environmental issues,
6 several are germane to this hearing.

7 The water issue is an issue,
8 has been an issue. This doesn't
9 change it. This really doesn't
10 change anything about that. All
11 right.

12 Monroe is my hometown. I guess
13 all I'm saying is give Monroe a
14 chance and vote yes.

15 MS. RAMPPEN: Following Tom
16 Kemnitz is Patrick Davis followed by
17 Sona Mason.

18 TOM KEMNITZ: (Monroe)
19 I'm Tom Kemnitz from Monroe.
20 I'm chairman of the Monroe Democratic
21 Committee. At our last meeting we
22 unanimously past a resolution that
23 begins we believe to the very essence
24 of democracy is that right of the
25 people to choose a government under

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 which they live. We go on to ask you
3 to vote in favor of giving the
4 citizens of Monroe the right to
5 decide on this issue.

6 One of the problems that we
7 face in the world, political problem,
8 is that we have two groups that don't
9 trust each other and don't agree on
10 many things. And that divide has
11 been used by people who are less than
12 (inaudible) and as example of this we
13 now have a town judge who has been
14 indicted by the Department of Justice
15 and arrested by the FBI for a variety
16 of offenses, that she never would
17 have been able to run in the town
18 (inaudible).

19 We went in to the towns,
20 counties to find common ground to end
21 the cycle of litigation (inaudible)
22 in recent years.

23 Again, we ask you to let us
24 decide. Thank you.

25 PATRICK DAVIS: (Monroe)

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 My name is Pat Davis, I'm here
3 today not only as a candidate for
4 County Executive but as a resident of
5 the Town of Monroe to urge the County
6 Legislature to give me and my
7 neighbors opportunity to be in
8 control of our own destiny.

9 I'm also calling on us as a
10 community to look at this as an
11 opportunity for a better future.

12 I would like to thank the
13 Orange County Legislature for
14 convening the public hearing this
15 evening and I credit all the folks
16 that have come out today to voice
17 their opinions and respectfully
18 listen to their neighbors' opinions.

19 This is an important part of
20 how a democracy works.

21 For years mistrust has plagued
22 the relationship between the Village
23 of Kiryas Joel and the Town of
24 Monroe.

25 Throughout my career in the

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 military and in business I've been
3 driven to follow the sounds of the
4 battle, provide leadership and
5 collaborate with others to identify
6 solutions rather than ignore the most
7 urgent problems. For that reason I
8 commend the efforts of the parties
9 involved in demonstrating leadership
10 and arriving at a compromise.

11 We must consider this to be an
12 opportunity to look toward the
13 future. For publically elected
14 officials particularly the County
15 Executive to exercise leadership, to
16 hear the voices of everyone impacted,
17 to get everyone a seat at the table,
18 get the facts and meet us for an
19 improved future. We have to
20 recognize that the creation of the
21 new town will by no means be a
22 perfect solution.

23 Approval of this measure will
24 result in years of continued
25 negotiations regarding the details of

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 limitations. This must not happen
3 behind closed doors.

4 Through an open process we need
5 to resolve the outstanding issue
6 between elected leaders of Orange
7 County, Town of Monroe, Kiryas Joel
8 and all impacted municipalities.

9 Therefore, my continued
10 supported is contingent upon leading
11 one condition. The interest of all
12 Orange County citizens must be
13 represented and prioritized. We have
14 to acknowledge the events and complex
15 of the situation and not let it
16 paralyze us in to inaction or force
17 us to continue with what is not
18 working.

19 We are running out of time to
20 act before the situation becomes
21 untenable. What is the alternative;
22 to continue with the broken status
23 quo? I don't think so. Let's take
24 steps now to create a better future
25 for our community. Our children are

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 depending on us. Let Monroe vote.

3 MS. RAMPEN: Following Sona
4 Mason is Kevin Roddey followed by
5 Karen Dougher.

6 SONA MASON: (Pearl River)
7 My name is Sona Mason, and I
8 represent the New York/New Jersey
9 Trail conference.

10 I am stand to reason for the
11 proposal of the Town of Palm Tree.
12 People need space to live. However,
13 they have forgotten two important
14 tings in the meantime; two long
15 distance trails, the Long Path and
16 the Highland Trail.

17 Actually (inaudible) big deal
18 trails. They are both listed on the
19 New York Open Space Plan. The 358
20 mile, 70 year old Long Path connects
21 one of the greatest cities in the
22 world, (inaudible) New York, with the
23 largest preserve park in the country,
24 the Adirondacks.

25 The 150 mile long Highlands

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 Trail gives people access from the
3 Delaware River all the way through to
4 the Hudson River taken on (inaudible)
5 scenic land.

6 Along the way they connect
7 state parks, municipal parks, private
8 preserves and one national park.
9 Both of these trails (inaudible) at
10 this point because there is nowhere
11 else for them to go. This is the
12 last (inaudible. Everywhere else
13 around them is (inaudible).

14 7 Springs Road for many years
15 used to be an unpaved, rural and very
16 different walk, a wooded walk. Have
17 you seen the land? It's gorgeous.
18 It's an amenity to the community, and
19 I know many of you enjoy the trails.
20 I've seen some of you. It brings in
21 revenue, good things to the county.
22 The New York State offer planning
23 courses (inaudible).

24 The land around Gonzaga Park is
25 developed and therefore, this is the

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 only place left.

3 The parcels north and south are
4 7 Springs Road, and can be made
5 contiguous with (inaudible) off 7
6 Springs can be made contiguous to
7 Gonzaga Park (inaudible). Otherwise
8 what will happen to these trails.

9 So, for the last 70 years,
10 volunteers of the Trail Conference
11 Land Trust and state parks have been
12 working hard to preserve (inaudible)
13 for these trails (inaudible).

14 There are many good reasons why
15 the open space plan endorses
16 (inaudible) corridors across the
17 state for people's health, for
18 enjoyment, for wildlife, for
19 aesthetic reasons, great property
20 values.

21 So, how are we going to protect
22 these trails. Please, go ahead and
23 vote whichever way you vote, but
24 please, make a provision for these
25 trails. Basically protect the space

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 for them, a corridor. (Inaudible)

3 Remember that the generation
4 who has to (inaudible) trails in half
5 but leave a legacy to be followed.

6 Thank you.

7 KEVIN RODDEY: (Blooming Grove)

8 Good evening. My name is Kevin
9 Roddey. I'm a 25 year resident of
10 Blooming Grove, and I own a small
11 business in Washingtonville. I love
12 my town and our county. I am also a
13 founding member of Preserve Blooming
14 Grove.

15 We are here tonight to support
16 United Monroe, but also the residents
17 of Kiryas Joel in their quest to
18 leave the Town of Monroe.

19 No agreement is perfect and
20 disagreement is the right one today.
21 I urge all legislators to vote yes
22 when the time comes.

23 I will also strongly
24 (inaudible) this County and all the
25 counties sitting in the audience

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 including (inaudible) the Town of
3 White Plains for this issue. It's
4 not going away.

5 I may be naïve but I believe in
6 long-term planning. Long-term
7 planning can be created through hard
8 work, understanding and the
9 willingness to make concessions to
10 the greater good.

11 You have a lot of work in front
12 of you. I wish you the best of the
13 luck.

14 MS. RAMPPEN: Following Karen
15 Dougher is Ray Kalmus then followed
16 by Veronica Connolly.

17 KAREN DOUGHER: (Tuxedo)

18 Good evening. Thank you for
19 allowing us to speak tonight. My
20 name is Karen Dougher. I am a
21 resident of Tuxedo, and my children
22 attend Monroe Woodbury School
23 District.

24 I have no voice in this vote.

25 I am not saying that I don't want the

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 vote to happen; what I am saying is
3 that it is impacting a larger group
4 who have no voice. I think that
5 there is a rush to judgment here, and
6 I believe that there should be a
7 delay or some sort of informational
8 time period so that we can collect
9 more facts. Especially since Ms.
10 Rodriguez said tonight that they
11 don't have all the facts.

12 I don't know how my taxes, my
13 school taxes are going to be affected
14 by this vote. I need to know that
15 identification before I can condone
16 this happening. Thank you.

17 RAY KALMUS: (Blooming Grove)
18 Good evening, everybody. My
19 name is Ray Kalmus, and I live in the
20 Town of Blooming Grove; however, my
21 address is a Monroe address. My
22 neighbor up the road is in the Town
23 of Monroe. All three of my boys went
24 to Monroe Woodbury. I have a son who
25 lives in the Town of Monroe and

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 grandchildren who go to Monroe
3 Woodbury Schools.

4 Even though I may not have a
5 vote in this, I'm definitely involved
6 in this.

7 I also own two businesses; one
8 in Chester and one in Monroe. I've
9 got many, many clients who live in
10 the Monroe area, and a lot of them
11 are concerned about whether or not
12 they can stay here, especially those
13 who are nearing retirement.

14 I think it's very important
15 that the homeowners and business
16 owners give Monroe and the Village of
17 KJ a chance to separate.

18 Back in 2013 the Village of KJ
19 put in -- the town board members at
20 that time were put in by a vote which
21 was almost 100 percent out of KJ. I
22 think it was something like almost
23 7,000 votes to -- that's why KJ was
24 just the reverse.

25 So, you could see what the

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 problem is. It's almost like us
3 versus them type of thing.

4 In 2015, that town board, which
5 was put in by the Village of KJ voted
6 in favor of this 164 acre annexation.

7 In actuality I was at a meeting
8 when that town board allocated
9 \$200,000 for an independent
10 consulting firm to try and help
11 determine if that was a good thing
12 for them to do or not.

13 That consulting firm felt that
14 there wasn't enough information and
15 wanted them to vote no. However,
16 they still voted yes, and the reason
17 is simple. They were controlled by
18 KJ.

19 The big problem is what happens
20 if the towns do not separate. Within
21 the few years, many of the 14, 15,
22 16, 17 year olds in KJ will be
23 voters, and the Village of KJ
24 registered voters will out number all
25 the rest of the voters in the Town of

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 Monroe. They will have the ability
3 to put five Hasidic men on the town
4 board or find proxies to do what they
5 want anyway.

6 At that point they'll be able
7 to take over the planning board and
8 eventually the zoning board. You
9 will wind up having high density
10 housing in many other areas in
11 Monroe. That's where your problem
12 really begins because at that point,
13 they'll be living all throughout the
14 town. They'll be voting in Monroe
15 Woodbury School District elections
16 and the values of our homes will
17 absolutely deteriorate, and as far as
18 the other municipalities go it will
19 be much better for them to have a
20 strong ally in the Town of Monroe
21 than an enemy.

22 I urge you please allow the
23 people of Monroe to make this
24 decision. Thank you.

25 VERONICA CONNOLLY: (Monroe)

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 Hi. I'm Veronica Connolly.
3 I'm a resident of the Village of
4 Monroe. I would like to thank the
5 County Legislature for holding this
6 hearing and County Executive Neuhaus.

7 As I stated, I've been a Monroe
8 resident for nearly ten years.

9 In those short ten years, half
10 of that time has been spent
11 volunteering countless hours with two
12 organizations I hold near and dear to
13 my heart; United Monroe and Preserve
14 Hudson Valley.

15 I, along with countless others,
16 have given so much of our time
17 fighting, debating, educating the
18 folks of our town as well as across
19 the County.

20 We've been placed in a
21 situation with an issue that didn't
22 start just five years ago but began
23 40 years ago. Unfortunately it's our
24 generation that is left holding the
25 proverbial bag to try and figure out

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 how to best meet the needs of one
3 town with two very stark and
4 contrasting ways in which to pursue
5 life, liberty and happiness we are
6 all guaranteed under the Declaration
7 of Independence.

8 In 40 years nothing different
9 has ever been done to find a mutual
10 agreement amongst the Monroe
11 residents who live side by side but a
12 world apart.

13 How many lawsuits can be drawn;
14 how many hours can be spent on the
15 same old issues; how much more can we
16 in Monroe or the county take when
17 leaders of Harley Doles want this
18 animosity to continue for his power
19 and gain.

20 Monroe and Orange County will
21 be better served when people like
22 Harley Doles can never come to power
23 again.

24 There's never been any viable
25 solution to try to come to a

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 resolution between the two
3 communities and here we are with an
4 opportunity to try something new and
5 allow the Monroe residents to finally
6 have an actual voice to choose what's
7 best for their future.

8 If we don't at least offer the
9 opportunity to the residents of
10 Monroe to vote on the referendum for
11 separation, you are taking any
12 possibility for a different approach
13 to these conflicts to be even
14 considered.

15 Can we predict the future and
16 the obvious answer is no, but what I
17 do know for a fact is Monroe, the way
18 it sits now, and having this constant
19 battle is a hundred percent not
20 working for anyone including the
21 county.

22 I give my affirmation that
23 states, if it's not working for you,
24 what can you do to change it.

25 Well, here we are and now I ask

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 you 21 legislators, Monroe is not
3 working for us anymore. What can you
4 do to change that and the answer is
5 vote yes for separation referendum.
6 Thank you.

7 MS. RAMPPEN: The next speaker
8 is Kate Ahmadi followed by Michele
9 Withier. I'm not sure if I
10 pronounced the last name correctly.

11 KATE AHMADI: (Blooming Grove)
12 Kate Ahmadi, Town of Blooming
13 Grove. Can you hear me? I speak
14 generally for the protection of Skud
15 Mut (ph) Mountain and this village
16 and specifically for the continued
17 protection of Gonzaga Park. And
18 Orange County Park connects it to the
19 Long Path.

20 On the boarder just outside of
21 the proposed Town of Palm Tree, it's
22 the green area on the map in the
23 front here is the entrance to the
24 park. Gonzaga is in the position to
25 serve the public, all of the public.

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 A park built more recently on
3 Larkin Drive in Monroe. Ruach
4 Hachaim, admits only KJ residents.
5 The park is open when large
6 commercial buses arrive to 7:30 p.m.
7 weekdays and Sunday afternoons. An
8 entrance sign mentions that
9 non-residents are free to use other
10 parks are listed. Mysteriously
11 Gonzaga is omitted from that list.

12 Also mysteriously the large
13 sign inside Gonzaga has disappeared.
14 Gonzaga is very small. In two
15 directions past (inaudible) is
16 closed. Gonzaga has already had a
17 very complicated history.

18 It was the home of the
19 Novitiate and St. Andrew-on-Hudson
20 and the Jesuits since the '70s and
21 then the recap housing fund
22 development company. The state took
23 it over in 1995.

24 In 2004, the state turned
25 Gonzaga over to the County as a

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 public park. Opened in 2012. It is
3 closed during the winter.

4 The deed for this transaction
5 as follows; this grant is made and
6 accepted upon condition that said
7 premises shall be improved and
8 maintained for park recreation and
9 playground purposes. In the event
10 that said premises are not included
11 and maintained for said purposes the
12 title hereby conveyed shall revert to
13 the people of the State of New York,
14 and the Attorney General may
15 institute an action in the Supreme
16 Court for a judgment declaring
17 (inaudible) such title in the state.

18 Several picturesque structures
19 and some fencing remain. There is a
20 large fence playing field, marked
21 field permit, field by permit only
22 and a large lighted parking lot, as
23 well as two portable toilets. There
24 were several picnic tables.

25 The glory of the park is the

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 small pond with dragon flies where
3 occasionally people fish.

4 During the five or so years it
5 has been operating as an Orange
6 County park. It has developed in to
7 a lovely, well-maintained community
8 park.

9 On the near borders between
10 KJ, Woodbury (inaudible).

11 Young Hasidic men and others
12 have for many years hiked down Long
13 Mountain Ridge from the park greeting
14 each other peacefully as we hikers
15 do.

16 The ball field is used by
17 Monroe St. Brandon's football club
18 (inaudible) and others.

19 Passive recreation park
20 activities such as nature education,
21 picnicking, fishing, walking, hiking,
22 birding, meditation and praying go
23 on.

24 SPEAKER: Laura Fernandez
25 followed by Debra Behringer.

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2 LAURA FERNANDEZ: (Monroe)

3 Hi. My name is Laura. I moved
4 to Monroe in August of 2012. My
5 sister has lived in Orange County for
6 over 30 years, and I was excited to
7 have a home built near her in this
8 beautiful area. I wanted to leave
9 the congestion of New Jersey and give
10 my daughter the wonderful education
11 this school system has to offer.

12 Within a month of moving here,
13 I was told to find a Facebook page
14 called Save the Monroe Movie Theatre.
15 The rest is history.

16 I have been a United Monroe
17 supporter and volunteer ever since.
18 After five years of attending
19 fundraisers, walking in marches and
20 helping to run endless political
21 campaigns there's finally a light at
22 the end of the tunnel.

23 We are so close to electing a
24 town board in Monroe that wants what
25 the people of Monroe want.

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 Separating from KJ is the next step.
3 I would like nothing more than to see
4 my eight-year-old daughter graduate
5 from Monroe Woodbury High School at
6 the age of 18.

7 Please help us gain our
8 political freedom, protect our school
9 district and to act as a town as I am
10 sure all the town you represent have
11 been able to do over the years.

12 Please let the people of Monroe
13 decide our faith. Let us vote for
14 the separation in November. Thank
15 you.

16 DEBRA BEHRINGER: (Monroe)

17 Hello. My name is Debra
18 Behringer. I just want to give a
19 little background on my life.

20 My parents moved here in 1974.
21 I was two. This is the only town
22 that I know. We brought the five
23 kids in our family, and we loved the
24 school so much we played all the
25 sports, and when it was time for my

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 husband and I to settle down, we knew
3 that Monroe was the perfect town for
4 us to live in.

5 This town means everything to
6 us. It's a friendly town. Our kids
7 are in sports. The schools are
8 amazing. I have four children in
9 four different schools in Monroe
10 Woodbury, and there's no other
11 district I would want to send them
12 to.

13 I started going to meetings and
14 getting involved when I saw all the
15 corruption in Monroe.

16 I didn't realize growing up
17 that this had been going on for so
18 long, but in the last five years I
19 saw what happened to our town board.

20 It actually made me run for
21 village board and I'm now a trustee
22 on the Village of Monroe board.

23 When someone said before that
24 KJ it's not right to make them their
25 own town, they already are their own

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 town. I can't live there. It's only
3 KJ residents. The only difference is
4 they control our town board, and I
5 don't think you realize how much this
6 has affected everybody in our town.
7 The County too, but for us.

8 Your are the legislators
9 (inaudible). You know what the right
10 thing to do is. Put yourself in our
11 shoes. What would you want.

12 We are not asking you to
13 separate; we are asking you to give
14 us the opportunity to vote. A yes
15 vote is the only answer.

16 The Monroe Woodbury School
17 District is a major district. It
18 offers a phenomenal sports program,
19 music programs, which was actually
20 voted best music in the community for
21 seven years in a row. And the
22 acidemics are phenomenal.

23 Voting yes will allow the
24 district to maintain an excellent
25 reputation without the fear of

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 programs being cut or the Board of Ed
3 being influenced by the special
4 interest bloc vote.

5 We know we don't want to become
6 the next East Ramapo.

7 A yes vote will allow the
8 citizens of Monroe to have fair
9 representation; something we don't
10 currently have and we haven't had for
11 years.

12 Please vote yes. You know it's
13 the right thing to do. All you have
14 to do is say yes. Let us vote.
15 We're not saying you're the deciding
16 factor but give us that to let us
17 decide our future.

18 I'm not going anywhere. I want
19 to see my daughter graduate just like
20 Laura. She's in first grade. I
21 would never uproot my family, but you
22 are making it really difficult for
23 us, and we need you to vote yes for
24 us. Thank you.

25 SPEAKER: Robin Crouse followed

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 by Ward Brower.

3 ROBIN CROUSE: (Woodbury)

4 Thank you for the opportunity.

5 I live here in Woodbury. I agree
6 with some of the comments that were
7 made. Some of my thoughts were
8 already covered.

9 One that wasn't though is the
10 \$164,000 question, shall we say.

11 Hundreds of thousands of
12 dollars have already been spent on a
13 lawsuit involving seven communities
14 plus the county. So, I don't really
15 understand how the Legislature can
16 consider a vote until that lawsuit is
17 determined one way or the other.
18 There are a lot of unanswered
19 questions still. Data is still
20 coming in to you. So, I would only
21 ask you to wait, take a step back,
22 collect all the data that is
23 necessary for all concerned before
24 you render a decision. Thank you.

25 WARD BROWER: (Monroe)

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2 Good evening, Ward Brower,
3 private citizen. By the way, I was
4 born in Tuxedo so I'm probably more
5 than a native to both. (Inaudible)

6 I've seen a lot of changes in
7 that time and commented as some of
8 the people in the audience. Labor
9 Day would arrive. Summer people
10 would be -- (inaudible)

11 In this very room the first
12 full season. I know that a long
13 time.

14 However, in all my 70 something
15 years this is all a bizarre,
16 political scenario I've ever seen,
17 and we're rushing in to make a deal
18 when time is of the essence. We need
19 to step back and examine all the
20 facts and allow the gross innuendoes,
21 half truths.

22 First of all, we do have an
23 unconstitutional village that wants
24 to become an unconstitutional town.
25 That's bizarre. Then it's negotiated

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 by an unelected self-serving group of
3 non-professionals. I raised that
4 question at a town board meeting.
5 One of the leaders from United Monroe
6 said they had to take the job on
7 because the town board refused to do
8 it. That scenario is a bit
9 disingenuous.

10 From 2015 they have controlled
11 three of the five seats on that board
12 which means they control the board.
13 If they wanted a town board to
14 negotiate it, they would have done
15 it.

16 In fact, at every meeting since
17 the Town of North Monroe has, out of
18 the public view, on the agenda which
19 appears Town of North Monroe.

20 And there's the three puppets
21 (inaudible) take it off the agenda.
22 They don't want you to know. They
23 want to keep you in the dark.
24 (Inaudible)

25 I was a member of UM in 2013.

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 It had a good purpose. Organize a
3 non-religious people in to their own
4 bloc versus their religious
5 (inaudible). We lost.

6 In 2015, we had a change in
7 strategy but it never involved or
8 bothered to inform anybody. They cut
9 a deal with the democratic alliance.

10 By the way, that is the second
11 most powerful religious (inaudible)
12 in our town.

13 They got 2,500 votes. From
14 that point on their mission had
15 change. Their mission was -- up to
16 that point was our own bloc vote
17 versus the religious bloc vote,
18 unsustainable growth was bad.

19 After 2015 growth was good,
20 provided that the people vote for
21 them. Thank you.

22 SPEAKER: John Allegro,
23 Lorraine McNeill followed by Janice
24 Annunziata followed by Valerie
25 Hunter.

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2 JOHN ALLEGRO: (Monroe)

3 John Allego, Town of Monroe.

4 On September 8, 2015 four people
5 decided the future of Monroe.

6 Harley Doles and his town board
7 approved Kiryas Joel's 164 acre
8 annexation. Just two months later 40
9 voters passed the annexation in
10 special elections. That's 44 people
11 determined the future of my town.

12 This September 7th, that's
13 almost two years to the day, there
14 will be a similar decision. You, the
15 Orange County Legislature, will
16 decide to either allow or not allow a
17 referendum on the issue of Kiryas
18 Joel's separation, but this time if
19 you allow it, all 20,000 voters of
20 Monroe would get to vote on the
21 future of our town. Think about
22 that.

23 If 14 of you vote yes, the
24 people of Monroe decide. If just 8
25 of you vote no, you will have

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 decided.

3 Monroe needs 14 of you to vote
4 yes. If you do, it doesn't mean that
5 you approved KJ's separation. It
6 doesn't mean that you're giving
7 Kiryas Joel anything. It simply
8 means that you are giving the people
9 of Monroe the opportunity to decide
10 democratically the future of their
11 own town.

12 If 14 of you allow a
13 referendum, the people of Monroe can
14 vote for freedom from Kiryas Joel
15 bloc vote. They can vote for sanity
16 in local government vote and they can
17 vote for the beginning of sensible
18 and equitable relations with
19 neighboring communities.

20 Only 8 no votes would disallow
21 a referendum. If so, the people of
22 Monroe will receive none of those
23 opportunities. If so, a handful of
24 people will once again have decided
25 the future of Monroe.

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2 A decision by 8 of you against
3 the referendum will tie Monroe to
4 Kiryas Joel forever.

5 The KJ bloc will out number the
6 rest of the voters in Monroe in three
7 years. That means all the planning
8 and zoning decisions will be made by
9 those voted in by the bloc.

10 Now, I know that you face
11 county issues of environment, water,
12 sewer and infrastructure. I'm an
13 environmentalist myself. I'm a good
14 steward to my land. I don't use
15 chemicals. I care for the habitats.

16 However, all of those issues
17 will be here on September 8th whether
18 you vote yes or whether you deny the
19 people of Monroe the chance for a
20 referendum.

21 I ask you to cast your yes vote
22 for the one question that is before
23 you. And that is will the people of
24 Monroe vote in referendum that will
25 decide the future of their town.

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2 I'm also going to ask you to
3 please put aside whatever political
4 differences that you have and do
5 what's right for the people of
6 Monroe.

7 Please allow a referendum on
8 the issue of Kiryas Joel separation.
9 Please let us vote and please let us
10 decide our own destiny.

11 And I want to say one thing to
12 Ward Brower, the outright lie about
13 our organization. It was never about
14 religion. It was about fair and
15 equal government for all. This is
16 not a religious issue. This is a
17 political issue. Thank you.

18 LORRAINE MCNEILL: (Highland
19 Mills)

20 Honorable legislators,
21 Mr. Chairman, thank you so much for
22 your time this evening.

23 On its face, one might argue
24 that letting the people decide is a
25 good idea.

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2 Our Legislature must look at
3 this in its entire context and not
4 just one piece. This is a matter
5 that allows ramifications outside the
6 boarders of Monroe, (inaudible)
7 municipalities, some lawsuits in the
8 County and also the region, and all
9 you have to do is think about the
10 Ramapo River.

11 It should not be left up to the
12 voters of Monroe to decide to correct
13 the political situation within the
14 boarders of their own municipality to
15 the detriment of their neighbors.

16 This creation of a new town is
17 only a temporary stopgap measure and
18 does not address the issues, nor does
19 it help curb the unsustainable
20 (inaudible) that have been engaged to
21 this date.

22 This premise of a new town
23 formation and it has been said before
24 but I want to reiterate because it's
25 extremely important.

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2 This premise of a new town
3 formation with co-terminate school
4 district borders is contrary to case
5 law in New York State. It is also
6 contrary to the New York State
7 Constitution and the United States
8 Constitution, and this is an illegal
9 village, an illegal school district
10 attempting to form an illegal town.

11 The United States ensures
12 freedom to religion through the first
13 amendment, protecting government from
14 religion and religion from
15 government, but it does not protect
16 those who seek to form their own
17 religions government within the US,
18 whether it's a village, a town
19 district or school district or town
20 or whatever.

21 And the intention of this is
22 clearly laid out in their petition,
23 Exhibit D, and it's basically
24 establishing a fact that this is
25 going to be creating a religious

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 municipality.

3 The Legislature should not
4 decide in a vacuum. You must not be
5 guided by political reasons and you
6 must not let the village -- the
7 history of environmental infraction
8 create a new town because somebody's
9 environmental issues have to be
10 addressed.

11 The Orange County Legislature
12 must decide within the interest of
13 the County, not just Monroe, and most
14 seriously the Orange County
15 Legislature must not contrary to the
16 governing documents of New York State
17 and the United States.

18 You must vote no on the
19 petition and stop it now.

20 MR. BRESCIA: Also, if you
21 speak tonight, you will not be
22 allowed to speak tomorrow night.

23 So, keep that in mind if you
24 want to speak tonight and you're not
25 going to make it tomorrow night.

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2 Thank you.

3 JANIS ANNUNZIATA: (Monroe)

4 Thank you for the opportunity
5 to speak. My name is Janis
6 Annunziata. My husband, Frank, and I
7 have lived in Blooming Grove for over
8 25 years.

9 While we don't approve
10 development, it has to be planned
11 better than inclusive. We supported
12 United Monroe initially and
13 financially, but we grew very alarmed
14 when it entered their secret
15 location.

16 We were informed by (inaudible)
17 attorney that Palm Tree will cause
18 irreparable harm to Blooming Grove
19 and many other communities including
20 Woodbury, Cornwall, Chester,
21 Washingtonville and Tuxedo, just to
22 start.

23 KJ now is (inaudible) with
24 them. All of the affected towns,
25 along with the environmental groups

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2 and our elected officials must stand
3 together or we will fall one by one
4 until ultimately our (inaudible).

5 We request our legislators
6 please pay attention to all of us.
7 Vote no if Palm Tree will harm
8 adjacent towns.

9 Instead, slow town, take your
10 time to get the answers you need in
11 order to come up with a plan that
12 identifies and finds acceptable
13 solutions for all impacted
14 communities in our beautiful county.

15 We have many, many reasons for
16 your consideration. Woodbury will be
17 left unprotected from annexation.
18 Blooming Grove will be left
19 unprotected from annexation, and the
20 new shared boundary of Palm Tree will
21 make annexation possible.

22 Eight municipalities in the
23 county itself are all parties to a KJ
24 annexation challenge lawsuit pending
25 in our Appellate Court.

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2 We will be rendered moot by
3 this implement.

4 The municipalities in the
5 county involved in that lawsuit will
6 lose a huge leverage we now have in
7 our lawsuit. You are likely to
8 create a very bad annexation
9 precedent.

10 KJ's (inaudible) health and
11 safety code, environmental law and
12 enforcement is minimal.

13 Sewer needs are not addressed.
14 (Inaudible) at full capacity. Who
15 will pay for that additional stress.

16 Water supplies are already
17 challenged to the breaking point.
18 Blooming Grove has water shortages.
19 KJ isn't even online yet.

20 As the annexed land (inaudible)
21 our taxes will increase and become
22 unbearable.

23 Somehow the Hasidics continue
24 to receive special treatment. They
25 (inaudible) They poison water and

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 land.

3 Favoring one religious group at
4 the expense of others is
5 unconstitutional and must be stopped
6 in order to maintain separation of
7 church and state.

8 Rockland County taxes have
9 blockbusting intimidation and
10 (inaudible) and is taking place
11 (inaudible).

12 I'm alarmed (inaudible) 250
13 homes in south Blooming Grove
14 (inaudible) lost water. (Inaudible)
15 of future annexation of Blooming
16 Grove.

17 Non-KJ residents (inaudible).
18 (Inaudible) Cornwall, Woodbury,
19 (inaudible) no voice.

20 We and, you as our
21 representatives, need to know more
22 than what we are presently being
23 told.

24 Traffic will increase
25 dramatically. (Inaudible)

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2 Infrastructure and services.
3 Increasing pollution, the quality of
4 our air and our water, and the
5 quality of life that we all cherish.

6 Zoning must be enforced or put
7 in to place to protect and expand our
8 open green spaces. Curb unrestricted
9 development and slow down the
10 (inaudible). Thank you.

11 SPEAKER: Valerie Hunter?

12 I'm going to call Donna Henry,
13 followed by Annissa Leung, Dorey
14 Houle and Ires Conques.

15 DONNA HENRY: (Monroe)

16 Hi, I'm Donna Henry, Monroe
17 resident. When I first moved here in
18 2013, I became aware of the issues at
19 hand, shockingly. I've been a long
20 supporter of United Monroe. They are
21 a very hard working group. Their
22 efforts have brought us this far
23 which may or may not be as far as
24 we'll ever get.

25 Having said that, I do not know

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2 if this is the best course of action.
3 I honestly don't. It may be. It
4 maybe not. The problem is we do not
5 have all of the information that we
6 need. By rushing this through what
7 we'll have in the referendum is a
8 vote that will pass; that is because
9 the vested interests of the two
10 groups and the alliance will form a
11 (inaudible) and it will go through.
12 This will not give anyone the time
13 that they need to get the information
14 that they need to make an informed
15 decision. I don't see why this has
16 to be rushed through. If it's a good
17 decision, it can wait. It can wait
18 until all of the people in the Town
19 of Monroe have the information that
20 they need to make an informed
21 decision and vote accordingly.

22 A referendum in November will
23 go through. So, your decision now
24 will actually determine whether or
25 not the separation goes through

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 because if you don't slow this down,
3 trend down, there's only one way it's
4 going.

5 So, I beg you, please, just put
6 the brakes on this. It may turn out
7 as the best thing for everybody but
8 it's happening too fast and with not
9 enough information. Thank you.

10 ANNISSA LEUNG: (Monroe)

11 My name is Annissa Leung. I'm
12 from the Town of Monroe. I've been a
13 Town of Monroe resident for eight
14 years, and I've seen a lot more and
15 more bitterness and anger in this
16 town. I just don't think that this
17 is the way to live, and I feel fooled
18 every time I go to vote. Every
19 season we vote we have the bloc vote.
20 Our vote is basically as a non-KJ
21 resident and not heard.

22 If we talk about Constitution
23 rights, what is my right when I
24 always have to fight against the bloc
25 vote.

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 And also just in response to a
3 person who just said that; I remember
4 the alliance group in the beginning
5 of this session has hired lawyer to
6 say no to put the things on the
7 referendum. So, I don't think that,
8 you know, that it's our position out
9 there.

10 And also along the issues about
11 environmental are the same; whether
12 we have a separate town or not, we
13 have to deal with those issues. So,
14 what it means is it's not an
15 incremental factor to consider
16 whether you allow us to vote, you
17 know, on this referendum. It's not
18 an incremental factor. It don't
19 suddenly pop up when I say you need a
20 separate town.

21 So, just to conclude, I am
22 asking you to allow us to put this
23 issue on the ballot because until
24 it's put on the ballot people don't
25 care and they don't spend time to

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 find out information. We can talk to
3 the cow, you know, say that we need
4 more information, no. Once it's on
5 the ballot people will find out.
6 They will start talking and that's
7 where the education comes in to the
8 picture.

9 So, I'm asking you to allow us,
10 the Monroe residents, to vote on our
11 own future. Thank you.

12 DOREY HOULE: (Monroe)

13 Hello. My name is Dorey Houle,
14 and I am a resident of the Town of
15 Monroe, and I am also the mother of
16 five fantastic children. Three of
17 those children are currently in the
18 Monroe Woodbury Central School
19 District, and two of them will enter
20 in September of 2018. I am begging
21 you on behalf of my husband, my
22 children and me to please, let Monroe
23 decide what happens to us.

24 The actions or inactions of
25 past government that has gotten us to

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 this place are not working. We see
3 it in the news. We see it in
4 (inaudible. We see it in Ramapo, and
5 now we see it Mahwah.

6 We have this opportunity and in
7 this, I call upon you as the first
8 people with the opportunity to change
9 this story. The definition of
10 insanity is doing the same things but
11 expecting different results. The
12 same old, same old will not work. We
13 have an opportunity to change this
14 story. We have an opportunity to
15 change the headlines. We have an
16 opportunity to make this better for
17 not only us, for not only Monroe but
18 for the future of our county.

19 So, please, I beg you let me
20 decide, let my husband decide what
21 happens to the Town of Monroe.

22 Thank you.

23 IRIS CONQUES: (Monroe)

24 My name is Iris Conques. I've
25 been a resident in the Town of Monroe

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 since 1998.

3 I would just like to ask you to
4 please let us decide on our future.

5 Thank you.

6 SPEAKER: Margaret Kazdan,
7 Alice Allay, Christina Kiesel and
8 James Kelly.

9 MARGARET KAZDAN: (Monroe)

10 Hello. I'm Margaret Kasdan and
11 I moved to Monroe almost 20 years ago
12 from New York City. In that time
13 I've enjoyed the beauty of Monroe,
14 but I've also seen the negative
15 impact of the bloc vote.

16 I'm asking you to vote to give
17 me the opportunity to choose the
18 future of the town and by all means,
19 deal with the environmental issues
20 and constitutional issues, about the
21 religious community, but let us
22 separate and move forward without the
23 bloc vote.

24 Thank you.

25 ALICE ALLAY: (Monroe)

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 Hello. My name is Alice Allay.
3 I live in the Village of Harriman. I
4 moved here about maybe 11 years ago
5 from New York City. I fell in love
6 with the area. It's beautiful, a
7 beautiful area, but I shortly found
8 myself in a very strange land, in an
9 area that's not represented by
10 elected representatives.

11 I'm asking you, our
12 Legislature, to please, vote yes.
13 Vote the referendum on the ballot.

14 Let us, the people of the Town
15 of Monroe, have an opportunity to
16 vote for our future.

17 It will be good for Monroe,
18 praying that it will be good for
19 Monroe and be good for the rest of
20 the County.

21 Thank you.

22 CHRISTINA KIESEL: (Monroe)

23 Hi. My name is Christina
24 Kiesel. I'm a 21 year resident of
25 the Town of Monroe, and I'm here

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 today to implore the legislators of
3 Orange County to vote yes on placing
4 a referendum on the ballot in
5 November.

6 As an active and long time
7 volunteer in the community, I've been
8 greatly encouraged by the outpouring
9 support for the separation from the
10 public. I believe it's because of
11 the diligence and perseverance of
12 volunteers of United Monroe and
13 Preserve Hudson Valley that we're now
14 experiencing an awareness of our
15 politics like never before.

16 Regardless of our individual
17 politic ideology, there's the common
18 ground we can all agree on,
19 maintaining the natural beauty of our
20 town, the value of our home and the
21 quality of our children's education
22 in the Monroe Woodbury School
23 District.

24 We finally have the opportunity
25 to break free from the strangled hold

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 of an ever expanding voting bloc in
3 our town government.

4 With the separation of the Town
5 of Monroe from the Village of Kiryas
6 Joel we have a real solution to the
7 public war over control of our
8 destiny which has waged on for 30 to
9 40 years.

10 With this separation, we can
11 finally ensure that our zoning is
12 enforced, residential neighborhoods
13 remain as much and our tax dollars
14 provide a topnotch education to our
15 children.

16 This separation must now be
17 decided upon by the people of Monroe.
18 The only way that can happen is the
19 support of our county Legislature.

20 So, I ask you, please allow the
21 residents of Monroe to decide their
22 future by placing a town separation
23 referendum on November's ballot.

24 Thank you.

25 JAMES KELLY: (Monroe)

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 Jim Kelly, Town of Monroe. I
3 want to thank you gentlemen and
4 ladies for coming here tonight to
5 listen and show democracy, it does
6 work in some places, even probably
7 the only place is the county.

8 I wasn't going to -- I didn't
9 bring any paper with me tonight
10 because I didn't think I was just
11 going to say support United Monroe
12 and their view on this issue, but I
13 listened to a lot of people, a lot of
14 different people and none of us see
15 to -- Well, I think the pros and cons
16 are very important for everybody. I
17 think we should all, you know, have
18 our opinions heard, and I think it's
19 very important to have them heard,
20 but also I think that the reality --
21 we brought up the expense to the
22 town, how much it's going to cost us.

23 How much is it costing Orange
24 County in lawyer fees and in the Town
25 of Monroe in lawyer fees and each of

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 the villages in lawyer fees.

3 You know, if you want to know
4 what everything is about, let's find
5 out how much it actually cost us in
6 the last 40 years. People come up.
7 I've been here 30 years. I've been
8 here 40 years. That's great, but
9 this didn't happen yesterday. It
10 didn't happen five years ago. It's
11 not something that you could blame
12 Kiryas Joel. They're our community.
13 They're different than us.

14 You know, I go to the gym
15 everyday. A lot of times there's
16 people from Kiryas Joel in there. I
17 mean, we have to work together to get
18 this done.

19 And United Monroe is the first
20 group that was able to communicate
21 with that and bring it to the table,
22 and now we have an open communication
23 with Kiryas Joel, and we are going to
24 say, well, we don't really need that.
25 That's not important. We don't

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 really need it.

3 I just ask let the people of
4 Monroe decide what they want to do
5 for their own community because if
6 you don't, you'll live with it.

7 Thank you.

8 MR. BRESCIA: I would like to
9 introduce Legislator Roseanne
10 Sullivan who represents Wallkill
11 proper.

12 SPEAKER: Lou Medina, followed
13 by Bonnie Rum; Bruce Chichester and
14 Mayor James Purcell.

15 LOU MEDINA: (Monroe)

16 Good evening. My name is Lou
17 Medina. I'm a resident of the Town
18 of Monroe.

19 I've lived here for 33 years.
20 I just wanted to say that I believe
21 that I know that you all know this.
22 KJ is not a new phenomenon. They've
23 been around for many years. We have
24 all been dealing with this situation
25 for many years. Not much of anything

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 has been done in that time to address
3 the situation that we knew we were
4 coming to.

5 We are here now. We need to
6 make a change. I respect everyone's
7 opinion to oppose a vote. I'm asking
8 that you vote yes. Give us the
9 chance to decide for ourselves.

10 I understand the reason why
11 people are saying no and want to
12 carry that opinion.

13 I would love to be able to wait
14 another 40 years, but we don't have
15 that time. I personally believe we
16 don't have until November because if
17 this goes down, I believe our town
18 board will change forever.

19 It will not have the control of
20 your own town board where I live. We
21 will not have control of our zoning
22 board where we live.

23 Please give us the chance to
24 decide our future and our own
25 destiny.

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 Thank you.

3 BONNIE RUM: (Blooming Grove)

4 Hello. My name is Bonnie Rum.

5 I was a member of the citizens
6 committee in Blooming Grove. We got
7 the award system past. Now, I'm a
8 member of Blooming Grove.

9 Let me begin by saying that at
10 first I was dead set against this
11 settlement. I haven't read it, and I
12 have my own issues with the
13 leadership of Kiryas Joel.

14 As a Jew myself, I resent the
15 picture they have painted resulting
16 in many people grouping us all and
17 including all Hasidics in to one
18 basket.

19 I know that many people object
20 to what is apparently an issue about
21 the separation between church or
22 religion and state and I absolutely
23 agree. However, let's not lose site
24 of the goal here.

25 If and when this town is

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 formed, and we must remember that it
3 is a public town and (inaudible)
4 should be eliminated that cannot
5 really legitimately tell me what to
6 wear or where to go and that is not
7 being (inaudible).

8 What we really -- what would
9 really happen to the Town of Monroe
10 residents? It will be determined in
11 the next few years because the
12 population of Kiryas Joel, as we all
13 know, multiplies by six percent every
14 single year. So, they will overwhelm
15 the voters in the rest of the town.
16 Whether it be government or the
17 educational board, they will control
18 it.

19 The fact that the Orange County
20 leadership, and I'm sorry, but the
21 Orange County leadership has not
22 enforced the rules for KJ because
23 they expect everyone else to abide by
24 it. That's something that has got to
25 change.

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 (Inaudible) the sewage plant
3 capacity, the pollution of the Ramapo
4 has got to be addressed and in a very
5 forceful manner from Orange County as
6 well as from Albany. That has
7 nothing to do with the town
8 separating. That has to be done
9 whether they separate or not. I
10 don't want to loose my three minutes.

11 MR. BRESCIA: I'm sorry your
12 three minutes -- The bell just went,
13 sorry. You could leave your written
14 comments though. You're welcome to
15 do that. You passed your three
16 minutes.

17 BRUCE CHICHESTER: (Monroe)

18 I am Bruce Chichester, current
19 Village of Harriman -- Current
20 Village of Harriman Trustee and
21 former Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

22 I've been an elected official
23 dating back to the mid '80s.
24 Throughout the years, I've interacted
25 with various Orange County

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 Executives, Orange County Legislators
3 and Town and Village of Monroe
4 boards.

5 Over these years I have
6 witnessed Orange County basically
7 disregard certain rules for Kiryas
8 Joel. I've never seen Orange County
9 enforce the required Section 239,
10 that requires municipalities to send
11 major planning decisions to Goshen
12 for county planning review for a
13 Kiryas Joel proposed development.

14 In other words, for over 30
15 years Orange County has left dealing
16 with our neighboring village to the
17 Town of Monroe and its other two
18 villages.

19 Unquestionably, I was pleased
20 when Orange County joined the local
21 municipalities, but they followed;
22 they never took the lead.

23 So, why now this Orange County
24 assessment of what's best for us?

25 It's the local municipalities

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 that over these years have looked to
3 preserve the environment, protect the
4 lifestyle, challenge exorbitant
5 annexation attempts and negotiate
6 agreements; not Orange County. And
7 all of this at our tax payor expense.

8 With this history in mind, I
9 implore you to delegate the decision
10 of potentially establishing the new
11 Town of Palm Tree to Town of Monroe
12 voters who, on a daily basis, live
13 with, and know of, the pros and cons
14 of this major decision.

15 I do understand that a majority
16 of Orange County Legislators'
17 districts are distant from the Town
18 of Monroe. Therefore, the daily
19 local happenings escape them.
20 Similar to administrating Orange
21 County Sewer District #1, a majority
22 of officials elected outside of our
23 area cannot have the same concern
24 and/or understanding that a local
25 voting public has on a daily basis.

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 I concluded with a plea to the
3 entire Orange County Legislature.
4 Allow the Town of Monroe voting
5 residents to decide this issue which
6 will certainly have a far reaching
7 effect on all of their futures.

8 I thank you for your time and
9 attention.

10 MAYOR JAMES PURCELL: (Monroe)

11 Good evening, all. Thank you
12 Chairman Brescia, County Attorney and
13 County Legislators who are here today
14 to listen to all the views and
15 concerns of Monroe and Orange County.
16 I'll make mine short and sweet.

17 First at the time I feel a
18 proposal for the creation of the new
19 town is a step in the right
20 direction. There are still
21 concerning issues that all need to be
22 dealt with.

23 Those issues are; future
24 annexations in the surrounding
25 community, Orange County Sewer

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 District (inaudible) if we can build
3 out future management and cost of the
4 future rate payers.

5 Surrounding water supplies for
6 local municipalities and compliance
7 with following the 239 review which
8 is very serious. We, as the
9 municipalities, have to follow all
10 the time and there's a certain
11 community that doesn't seem to want
12 to follow it. It has to be held to
13 the standard like we are.

14 These are just a few things
15 that need to be taken seriously.

16 The track record of the Village
17 of Kiryas Joel at times is suspect.
18 The situation and it's not just a
19 Monroe issue but a county issue, too.

20 We must think regionally for
21 the future of Monroe and all of
22 Orange County.

23 Thank you for your time.

24 SPEAKER: Okay. We have Phil
25 Gagler followed by Leonard Hernandez

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 followed by Margaret Farrell-Fasano
3 and Mary Bingham.

4 PHIL GAGLER: (Monroe)
5 Hi. My name is Phil Gagler.
6 I'm a 14 year resident of Monroe.

7 Orange County has been at odds
8 with the Village of Kiryas Joel for
9 decades. Unfortunately very little
10 has been done by Orange County to
11 ease the tensions.

12 In Monroe, there has been an
13 enormous imbalance of fair
14 representation by Monroe's town board
15 for very many years. This now is an
16 opportunity for Monroe and Kiryas
17 Joel to part simple ways. It's been
18 a long time coming and will help ease
19 tensions and form an opportunity for
20 us to make peace with our neighbors.

21 New York is a home rule state.
22 Local governments in home rule states
23 are free to pass laws and ordinances
24 as they see fit to further their
25 operations.

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 Who is more qualified to decide
3 the future of Monroe and Kiryas Joel
4 than residents of the Town of Monroe
5 and the Village of Kiryas Joel, no
6 one.

7 Now is an opportunity to put
8 aside your political differences and
9 do the right things for the citizens
10 of Monroe.

11 I ask you, the Legislative
12 body, to vote yes to allow Monroe
13 residents to decide our own future.
14 Thank you.

15 MARGARET FARRELL-FASANO:

16 (Monroe)

17 Hello. Thank you for allowing
18 me to speak. My name is Margaret
19 Farrell-Fasano.

20 I am a resident of the Village
21 of Monroe. I have been here for 38
22 years. I have five children, all
23 attended Monroe Woodbury. I also
24 have three children now living in the
25 Monroe area; one a teacher in the

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 Monroe School District. I have also
3 11 grandchildren attending these
4 schools. We are a community of
5 Monroe people, and I would like it to
6 continue that way.

7 I feel that the separation
8 agreement should be voted on as a yes
9 in our election, and we should have
10 the power for this.

11 I think you owe us the respect
12 to me and my family who have given so
13 much to this community and respect to
14 the people of Monroe by saying yes on
15 the ballot in November. Thank you.

16 MARY BINGHAM: (Monroe)

17 Good evening, all. Mary
18 Bingham, resident of the Town of
19 Monroe.

20 I would like to express my
21 personal opinion tonight regarding
22 the petition for the proposed
23 formation of a new town called Palm
24 Tree and the separation from the Town
25 of Monroe.

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 I am in favor of the proposal
3 and believe it is in the best
4 interest of all the residents of
5 Monroe and therefore, the referendum
6 for it should be allowed on the
7 ballot for November 7th.

8 There are many different and
9 complicated factors that must be
10 considered with the formation of a
11 new proposed town of Palm Tree and
12 its resulting impacts to all the
13 residents of the existing Town of
14 Monroe.

15 Some factors for residents to
16 consider include but not limited to
17 preservation of zoning, impacts on
18 school districts, impacts on the
19 Court and the possible resulting in
20 tax revenue will need to be
21 identified and vetted in the weeks to
22 come.

23 I am certain that the residents
24 of the Town of Monroe will do their
25 own diligence to search all the

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 factors that are important to them
3 and then make an educated decision
4 when they go to vote on the
5 referendum when it appears on the
6 November 7th ballot.

7 Having a referendum title on
8 the November ballot is not a new or
9 unique idea.

10 Monroe voters are used to
11 seeing referendums on November
12 ballots as Monroe voters decide on
13 their livelihood.

14 In addition, (inaudible) all
15 New York voters will clear a way for
16 a constitutional convention.

17 Referendums are a way to ensure
18 residents have a say in their
19 government. Many times I have heard
20 it said, New York is a home rule
21 state. What better way for the
22 Legislature of Orange County to prove
23 this statement true and by voting yes
24 and allowing a referendum for the
25 formation of the new town of Palm

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 Tree and separation from the Town of
3 Monroe to appealing on separate
4 ballot.

5 Thank you.

6 SPEAKER: Okay. We have
7 Richard Colon, Tony Cardone, Peter
8 Touhy and Donald Siebold.

9 RICHARD COLON: (Monroe)
10 Good evening, everybody. My
11 name is Rick Colon. I stand on -- I
12 sit on the town board of Monroe.
13 I've been a resident of Monroe since
14 1981.

15 A lot of talk has gone on and
16 references have been made to the
17 Natzis taking over the (inaudible)
18 land, the Battle of Britain.

19 It is not that historic. It is
20 a question of the town people of
21 Monroe getting the right of
22 determination. What could be more
23 democratic than that.

24 People talk about having a seat
25 at the table. So, I would like to

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 thank Preserve Hudson Valley and
3 United Monroe for standing up and
4 taking this issue to the people.

5 The other issues that must be
6 decided will be decided, not only by
7 the town people of Monroe but also I
8 think that the county will have a lot
9 to say about that later on, about
10 sewer, water, who's getting what.
11 These things, issues are very
12 important to the Town of Monroe. We
13 have to have the choice. We have to
14 have our own determination. I ask
15 you to let the people of Monroe to
16 stand and vote as they see fit.

17 Thank you.

18 TONY CARDONE: (Monroe)

19 Chairman Brescia, County
20 Legislators. First, I would like to
21 thank you for your service and for
22 being here this evening. I know it's
23 an extra meeting for you and it takes
24 time out of your daily life.

25 I've been a resident in the

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 Town of Monroe for 47 years. My
3 grandparents had a summer home up
4 here in the late '40s and that's what
5 led my parents to move us out of the
6 boroughs and up to Monroe.

7 For years the Village of
8 Monroe, the Village of Harriman and
9 the Town of Monroe, have lacked total
10 independence; independence needed to
11 allow our residents, schools and
12 businesses to have the opportunity to
13 prosper without the obstacles of
14 politics and a bloc vote.

15 Political dynamics that do not
16 represent the major majority of the
17 town residents. It is evident that
18 tonight's meeting is crucial to the
19 future success of Monroe, and it is
20 also evident that without United
21 Monroe and Preserve Hudson Valley you
22 probably would not be sitting here
23 tonight.

24 I would simply ask when making
25 your decision of a new town

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 referendum that you consider the
3 residents of Monroe their needs and
4 their need for independence and
5 that's not to say that I am
6 disrespecting the surrounding
7 communities. I do understand the
8 values associated with sewer and
9 water but that's your responsibility
10 the way I see it, and you still have
11 that responsibility whether you give
12 the Town of Monroe the ability to
13 vote or not.

14 The residents of Monroe need
15 their independence. We need to be
16 able to govern our town without the
17 oversight of political posturing
18 which it has been for the last 40
19 years.

20 Allow the residents of the Town
21 of Monroe to determine their fate.
22 Again, I respectfully and I
23 respectfully ask that you give the
24 voters the opportunity to vote in
25 this referendum.

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 Thank you for your time and
3 thank you for your service to our
4 county.

5 PETER TUOHY: (Monroe)

6 Good evening. Mr. Chairman,
7 thank you for coming and the
8 Legislators, too, and I appreciate my
9 opportunity to speak tonight.

10 My name is Peter Tuohy. I'm a
11 50 plus year resident of the Town of
12 Monroe.

13 For most of the majority of
14 that time, you know, there is never
15 any discussion of the future of KJ.
16 They're independent and they are
17 going to grow fast and they're
18 outgrow things but just kind of
19 kicked down the road, kick the can
20 down the road.

21 On behalf of anybody speaking
22 up, there never really was that until
23 this group came along, Preserve
24 Hudson Valley. And, you know,
25 regardless of who came and stepped up

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 the fact is that they come and step
3 up and the thing is that, you know,
4 through their discussions, the
5 negotiations, compromise -- I mean
6 those are basic things of how
7 anything in life gets done. Their
8 efforts I would hate to see go
9 unnoticed and fall by the wayside.

10 I strongly feel that it should
11 be the Town of Monroe residents who
12 ultimately decide this for our own
13 residents and Monroe and Kiryas Joel,
14 and for that I respectfully ask you
15 all for a yes vote to bring the
16 referendum to our ballot in November.

17 Thank you.

18 DONALD SIEBOLD: (Woodbury)

19 Donald Siebold, Woodbury. A
20 lot has been said tonight and there's
21 not much to add other than this is
22 certainly premature, but I look back
23 and I say to myself, the decision was
24 made four years ago when the Village
25 and the Town of Monroe went to the

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 officials and created an illegal
3 village because they did not conform
4 to the right proper law. They didn't
5 have the inhabitants. Nobody
6 challenged it. The County
7 Legislature, the county planning
8 department, nobody challenged the
9 creating of a village. You didn't do
10 it. You got stuck with this now
11 because there's something in front of
12 you, but the decision was made.

13 Now, if I lived in Monroe, I'd
14 be up there saying do it, do it, do
15 it, but this was done and that has
16 not been brought up.

17 There's also the issue of
18 unfortunately the horse is out of the
19 barn and it's ten miles down the
20 road, but there's been public
21 statements over the years that they
22 were going to create 200 homes a
23 year. That was 15 years ago, and
24 they were going to grow at 6 percent
25 incrementally.

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 There was a letter from some
3 resident of Monroe who did the
4 numbers and did the math and it was
5 never disputed, and he predicted the
6 numbers today.

7 But what are the numbers in 20
8 years from now, 30 years from now.
9 What legacy do you want to leave
10 because you didn't create this.
11 You're just stuck with this bag.
12 Okay?

13 And that's all I have to say.
14 Thank you.

15 SPEAKER: We have Carol
16 Mullooly, Matt Higgins, Neil Dwyer,
17 Gerry McQuade and Nadia Waldman.

18 CAROL MULLOOLY: (Central
19 Valley)

20 Hi. Carol Mullooly, Central
21 Valley. I've lived here over 40
22 years and I know that Monroe United
23 and Preserve the Hudson Valley have
24 worked tirelessly, raised money from
25 all over the County so they got a lot

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 of support, but I'm a little
3 disappointed that when push came to
4 shove and it got to the brass wire,
5 they kind of left everybody else out
6 of the loop. So, for that I say that
7 the County Legislature should really
8 try to help represent us and think
9 about us before you allow the vote
10 that are we represented. Did we get
11 represented in this process. And I'm
12 not saying that the process was
13 fraud. I'm just saying that they're
14 kicking the can towards them and
15 maybe they're kicking the can to
16 other towns.

17 So, I'm asking you to preserve
18 Woodbury because they have Monroe
19 United.

20 So, with that said, that's all
21 I have to say really is that I ask
22 you to represent Woodbury and maybe
23 some other towns that were included
24 in this process. And I also think
25 that maybe my elected officials would

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 be down here speaking what I'm saying
3 and would have wanted to have been
4 included in the process, but I think
5 we are in a lawsuit with Kiryas Joel.
6 So, of course, their hands are tied
7 also.

8 So, with that said don't kick
9 the can down the road before you
10 include everybody because I'm in the
11 Monroe Woodbury School District and I
12 pay those taxes. So, I feel as
13 though Woodbury and anybody that's in
14 the Monroe Woodbury School District
15 should definitely have some input and
16 it should all be done in some sort of
17 public forum.

18 Thank you.

19 NEIL DWYER: (Monroe)

20 Good evening, Jim Brescia and
21 Orange County Legislators and welcome
22 to our community.

23 My name is Neil Dwyer. I'm a
24 trustee here in the Village of
25 Monroe, and I thank you for the

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 opportunity to address you this
3 evening.

4 By the actions -- - I would
5 like to start off by saying by the
6 actions of the United Monroe and
7 Preserve Hudson Valley, we have this
8 very opportunity this evening. That
9 opportunity wasn't there a month ago.
10 It's here now, and I would like to
11 clearly state that. That's important
12 to know. (Inaudible).

13 The sole question you have pro
14 and con that's before you is whether
15 to allow the residents an opportunity
16 to decide on their future. One only
17 needs to look at the current state of
18 affairs to see the glaring problems.

19 A no vote continues a course of
20 business currently in place,
21 politically and otherwise. There
22 will be no altering of behavior. A
23 no vote will not only change -- will
24 not change any future development
25 from within KJ or outside.

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2 A no vote will not change any
3 preservation of resources.

4 A no vote will continue with
5 business as usual using a bloc vote
6 to put political agendas favorable to
7 one community over another.

8 A yes vote will allow us the
9 opportunity to decide our future.

10 A yes vote will allow us to
11 have this peace that we hope to have
12 between the communities and
13 throughout the counties that hasn't
14 been seen for many years. Politics
15 has been the governor in place.

16 A yes vote will allow the
17 chance in families in the town to
18 enjoy the social, athletic and
19 educational opportunities, the reason
20 -- the very reason they came here
21 without the anxiety and the stress
22 that comes with uncertainty which
23 comes from fears expressed on
24 different social platforms in
25 meetings and in supermarkets.

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 Offer the residents the chance
3 to address the quality of life in
4 Monroe so that they and for many
5 generations forward will have the
6 opportunity to enjoy.

7 I thank you.

8 SPEAKER: Mr. McQuade.

9 GERRY MCQUADE: (Monroe)

10 Thank you for your time
11 tonight. Orange County Legislators,
12 the serious business you have to
13 decide. I'm a town board member. I
14 was one of the guys that voted along
15 with Kathy (Inaudible) Sue Viocello
16 (ph) and Kathleen Burke (Inaudible).
17 I still stand by that decision.

18 I understand, even though I
19 don't trust, like they don't me,
20 United Monroe was trying to do
21 something. Separation has a ring to
22 it. It has a little bit of something
23 that you would like to see maybe down
24 the road, but what has gone on here
25 is backroom deals and backroom

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 negotiations.

3 We don't have all the
4 information. We have none of the
5 impact. We were criticized for the
6 annexation who didn't enough further
7 30, 40, 50 year impact. Right now we
8 have almost no impact on the subject.

9 If it goes on the yes vote to
10 the county, there will not be any
11 studies by the Town of Monroe.

12 The town board members,
13 Cardone, (inaudible) and Colon table
14 it every time it comes up. They
15 won't even let the evil Harley Doles
16 talk about it. So, the public will
17 not be given any information. So,
18 you have to do the studies. It's on
19 your table because once it goes past
20 you, it's going to be pushed through
21 by (Inaudible) KJ, KJ Alliance and
22 UM. It's over, and the public will
23 not get any information. Now, that's
24 a big problem. Backroom deals, no
25 accountability, non-visible.

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2 (Inaudible).

3 I would protect Monroe when I
4 ran first. We were supposed to be
5 protected by UM against the
6 (Inaudible) I understand the theory
7 of a balance of power, but when you
8 do anything behind closed doors, and
9 you take a KJ alliance bloc vote in
10 your back pocket, win two elections
11 over it and you're going to win
12 another one with it and you already
13 made a deal with the Village of KJ
14 not to vote in the election so they
15 can (Inaudible).

16 This is all politics. This is
17 what it comes down to. A complete
18 180 by UM against the KJ bloc vote.
19 Now it's okay. KJ unconstitutional
20 bureaucracy. You once said that all
21 the time. Hey, let's reward them
22 with their own town.

23 KJ environmental offender by
24 UM. Nothing addresses this here.

25 UM elected officials on the

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 board said we have no idea what's
3 going on in negotiations. The board
4 will deny voting for the election.
5 That's what that is.

6 220 acres (inaudible) UM says
7 it's okay. Let's get a big glass of
8 Kool-Aid and say it's fine. 56 more
9 acres, right. 162, we took 162 away.
10 Those 162 acres are all KJ Alliance.
11 They are going to vote for UM.

12 (Inaudible) to make a deal
13 that's lower in the amount. It was
14 to make sure that the bloc vote they
15 wanted are in the town and the ones
16 they don't want are out of the town.

17 Once we can say that the same
18 group are guaranteed by (Inaudible)
19 and the KJ administration that they
20 would get sewer and water, who is
21 going to pay for the sewer and water
22 (Inaudible) not KJ. Politics, the
23 County Exec.

24 The KJ bloc vote is payback
25 time and he's pushing for it. The

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES
2 election in November he's pushing for
3 it. Four more years, another
4 election, more pay back.

5 Why is the County Executive who
6 pushes for it. I don't trust
7 (inaudible) politicians any more than
8 anyone else does.

9 Assemblyman (Inaudible) I don't
10 know what he's going to say tonight
11 if he speaks. But he always said
12 knock on more (inaudible) knock on
13 more towns.

14 NADIA WALDMAN: (Monroe)
15 Please help us, that guy who is
16 on the town board. Please vote, yes.
17 This is the crap we're dealing with.

18 Nadia Waldman, Village of
19 Monroe resident for 25 years.

20 To the residents of Woodbury
21 complaining they didn't have a voice,
22 these negotiations were not secret.
23 They were in the papers. Anyone
24 could have demanded a seat for the
25 table, just like UM did. Like your

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 town representatives didn't.

3 Preserve Hudson Valley is also
4 in a lawsuit with KJ. That didn't
5 stop Preserve Hudson Valley and UM.
6 What stopped your town.

7 People can have all the
8 concerns about water and sewer and
9 the environment. Separation will not
10 change any of that and it won't
11 prevent anyone from fighting that.

12 If we do not separate, all
13 13,000 acres of Monroe land will be
14 KJ controlled. Imagine water and
15 sewer issues which will arise from
16 all 13,000 acres of Monroe being high
17 density housing.

18 KJ will control the town board
19 forever in two years time. The
20 numbers don't lie. 56 acres
21 separation versus 13,000 acres of KJ
22 controlled land.

23 The school district and the
24 Town of Monroe will be taken over if
25 we do not separate.

1 ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

2 Vote yes to allow the people of
3 Monroe to decide. Let us decide our
4 own destiny.

5 MR. BRESCIA: I would like to
6 thank everyone for coming out
7 tonight. Everyone seemed to go
8 calmly. The Legislature was a little
9 bit apprehensive having viewed a few
10 videos from this area in the past.

11 Everybody seemed calm and
12 respectful tonight and spoke
13 passionately about their viewpoints
14 and it probably helps that we got six
15 or seven Sheriff Deputies here
16 tonight to keep us calm.

17 Hopefully we'll have the same
18 type of atmosphere tomorrow night in
19 Kiryas Joel, and I welcome you to
20 come back tomorrow at 6:30 if you
21 haven't spoken or if you have spoken,
22 come and listen.

23 Thank you, and without further
24 ado I'll take a motion to declare the
25 public hearing adjourned until

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ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

tomorrow night.

(Whereupon, at 8:48 p.m., the
hearing was adjourned.)

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ALTERATION OF TOWN BOUNDARIES

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF NEW YORK)
 : SS.:
COUNTY OF PUTNAM)

I, MADELINE IOVINO, a Notary Public
for and within the State of New York, do
hereby certify:

That the above is a correct
transcription of my stenographic notes.

I further certify that I am not
related to any of the parties to this
action by blood or by marriage and that I
am in no way interested in the outcome of
this matter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
set my hand this 4th day of September 2017.



MADELINE IOVINO

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