



Agudath
Israel
of America
אגודת ישראל באמריקה

July 27, 2017

Honorable William C. Laforet
Mayor of Mahwah
475 Corporate Drive
Mahwah, NJ 07430

Re: Mahwah "Eruv"

BY EMAIL: wlaforet@mahwahtwp.org

Dear Mayor Laforet:

Agudath Israel of America, founded in 1922, is a national Orthodox Jewish organization, with chapters and constituents throughout the country. I serve as its Executive Vice President. I write to express Agudath Israel's deep concern about Mahwah's order to remove the "Eruv" that has been constructed on telephone and utility line poles to enable observant Jewish residents of Mahwah to carry objects outside of their homes on the Jewish Sabbath.

In response to our request, the law firm of Weil Gotshal & Manges has shared with us a copy of the letter they sent yesterday to you regarding the legal issues involving the Eruv. It is not our place here to reiterate their very cogent points.

Our point here is simply to focus on the troubling motivation underlying Mahwah's new-found opposition to the Eruv. As detailed in Weil Gotshal's letter to you, statements by opponents of the Eruv reek of anti-Semitism and anti-Orthodox animus. Clearly, what opponents of the Eruv are troubled by is not the presence of unobtrusive plastic strips on utility poles, but by the continued growth of the Orthodox Jewish community of Mahwah. The fact that so many of those opponents make no effort to hide their hatred is shocking and should not be tolerated.

We therefore urge you to reconsider Mahwah's opposition to the Eruv and plead with you to allow the Eruv to continue to exist. Mahwah should respect and accommodate the needs of its observant Jewish community, not give in to the haters.

Many thanks for your kind consideration of these concerns.

Sincerely,

Rabbi David Zwiebel
Executive Vice President

cc: Yehudah L. Buchweitz, Esq.