

Please print this letter and send it out to the entire community ASAP.

You may sign it,

A Searcher for the Truth

What Is Wrong With Us?

I live in Monsey. I am "fin inzerah chevrah". But for obvious reasons I cannot give my name. I have lived in Monsey for many years and felt very good living in a heimeshe community far away from the city and yet so close to anything that a frim family needs. I have my Bais Medrish, my chavrisah, my Yeshivas, my shopping for food and clothing, etc.

Before every election I listen to our Rabbonim and important people of the community and I vote for whoever they say is the best for our community. In the past, I even went to town meetings and yelled at the people, especially the "frim" ones, who wanted to stop the building in Monsey. I was told that they were against the heimeshe oilim. They were siding with the anti-semites and were misguided. I was told to vote for St. Lawrence because the other candidates were all anti-semites.

Now we have a new election coming up and once again every candidate running against St. Lawrence is an anti-semite. I recently saw a letter from the "Coalition for the Truth" c/o Doniel M. Horowitz, (probably a fake name), calling them all anti-semites and a letter from Kalmen Weber (who I have admired for standing up for us many times in the past) calling St. Lawrence's opponents "our enemies" for opposing the "building" in Ramapo. Yet in his last paragraph where he says that we should not support our enemies he also says that "we have to make sure that except downtown Monsey which has R15c zoning that allows considerable building, all the other areas should have their current zoning protected from any change. We have to make sure that the zoning in every area is "preserved" the way the residents of "that" area wants and deserves."

This confused me and I started thinking that perhaps something doesn't smell right. Are all the opponents really anti-semites or are they really saying exactly what Kalmen Weber said, that zoning in every area should be left up to the people living in that area. So I decided to do some checking on my own.

I know it is dangerous for me to say what I have discovered and if I am found out I will be put in Cheirim or worse, but I must do so. The real truth is sometimes painful but the false claims and the slander of other people made publicly, be they frim, not frim or Goyim is worse and demeans us all.

I just read an article in the Yated (yes, I read it) by Rabbi Y.T. Schwartz where he says, "The power struggle between the Democrat and Republican parties has escalated to a very palpable hatred for each other. The truth is no longer of interest to anyone. Lies are buried deep beneath the power struggle for the hearts and minds of Americans. In the process, future heads of state sully themselves with untruths, doubletalk, and ruthlessness to their opponents... We should ask ourselves, what is our attitude to those who are not exactly the same persuasion as we are?... Do we treat them with respect, or do we automatically brand them as apikorsim and look down on them? How beautiful are the ways of Avrohom Avinu which he passed unto his progeny to be emulated throughout the generations."

This hit home for me. Am I just a stupid sheep being led by the nose to the slaughter house? Am I falling into the trap of politicians and people with self serving agendas? After checking further, I found out to my satisfaction that the "other side" is not the evil people they are made out to be. What they really want is to preserve what they all came here for, to live in a village environment and not in an overcrowded city. That is why I came here and

I'm sure most of the other residents feel the same way. We once made fun of them because they said that they wanted to live with the butterflies. But now I think that they were right. Butterflies are better than overcrowded apartments. Trees are better than tar and concrete.

The opponents of St. Lawrence are not fighting us because we want to live in Monsey. They are fighting us because we are imposing ourselves on their way of life. When one of us wants to build multi-family housing in an area on 306 near Pomona, where there are only single-family homes, so that the builder can make a fortune and another one of us wants to do the same thing using the excuse that he needs the housing for 1000 Dayunim do you really expect the neighbors to be silent? We are destroying their way of life for the benefit of our own greedy builders! This is not anti-semitism. This is self preservation.

Our builders are even fooling us all. They claim that they are building affordable housing for us. But that turns out to be a lie. The housing that is going up is costing about a half million dollars for one apartment! That is not affordable. Kalmen Weber is surprised why nobody complained when the multi-family housing was built on Route 59 near Spring Valley High School and on Route 59 near WalMart. First of all, these are affordable senior housing with much less people living in them and secondly they were built in commercial area and did not impose themselves on their neighbors.

They also never opposed Yeshivas and Butei Medrushim unless they were being used as excuses for building multi-family housing. I am convinced that they are not Jew haters.

Kalmen Weber also stated that "It was the people of Preserve Ramapo that were active in forming the villages in the Town of Ramapo with the purpose of keeping ALL religious Jews and institutions out!" I found out that that is not true. The Preserve Ramapo people do want to form Ladentown Village to keep their neighborhood in the north as is. It was frim Jews that wanted to form the other villages and not Preserve Ramapo because the frim Jews also did not want to live in overcrowded neighborhoods. Am I to believe that when frim people say "stop the building" they mean that they want to stop themselves? I now wonder, am I being duped by the Preserve Ramapo people or am I being duped by my own people.

When St. Lawrence quotes the Chofetz Chaim does he really believe what he says or is he trying to impress us so that he can get our vote? At this point, I believe that we are falling into a trap of needless political hatred for the benefit of a few of our own developers and St. Lawrence. This is definitely neged Das Torah! There are may frim people, I discovered, that **DO NOT WANT TO LIVE IN OVERCROWDED NEIGHBORHOODS** including me! Achdis and ahavas yisroel is Das Torah.

I therefore came to the decision **NOT TO VOTE FOR
ST. LAWRENCE.**

I am voting for

Mele Carter Hyer Parietti Meyers and Lerer