

**Robert Hermansen**

---

**From:** OJPAC [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 27, 2017 10:04 PM  
**To:** William Laforet  
**Cc:** Kathy Coviello  
**Subject:** Re: Non Residents Ordinance

*Redacted  
Email Addresses*

Please disregard the automatically-generated signature of the contribution and our mailing address in the email from 8 minutes ago. We forgot to remove it.

On Jul 27, 2017, at 9:55 PM, OJPAC [REDACTED] wrote:

Good day Mayor and officials of the Township of Mahwah, N.J.

On July 27, 2017, Jerry DeMarco reported in the Ramapo Daily Voice that "[Mahwah] Township officials said they hoped the measure [to ban non-residents from visiting parks] would provide protection against what residents fear is an organized incursion from Rockland County of Orthodox families who've recently swarmed parks in Mahwah, Montvale, Ramsey and Upper Saddle River by the busload."

If the above report is inaccurate, please inform the public that it is inaccurate. If as we suspect that the report is accurate - especially coinciding with the recent Eruv action of your government - please be aware that taking official government action against an ethnic or religious group is discriminatory and unconstitutional.

Under New Jersey's OPRA, we are requesting that you please share via email or regular mail any and all correspondence, records and meeting minutes that township officials had in context of the above-mentioned ordinance.

In addition, because the intent of the ordinance may be subject to a Federal-level civil rights lawsuit (and perhaps a criminal inquiry too due to its potential violation of law), we would respectfully caution you against deleting any records related to this topic.

Thank you,

Aron Spielman

Mayer Berger

Yossi Gestetner

Co-founders; Orthodox Jewish Public Affairs Council  
(OJPAC)

Please email the requested records to [REDACTED] or  
mail it too

OJPAC  
P.O. Box 852  
Spring Valley, NY  
10977

Redacted  
Email Address



P.S. Representatives of OJPAC are willing to attend public meetings/forums to address questions/concerns that residents may have about the growth of the Orthodox Jewish community. However, due to the physical intimidation that an Orthodox Jewish female reporter suffered this week when she reported on an anti-Eruv gathering in Mahwah, OJPAC would attend such meetings only if the Mahwah P.D. would be on hand to assure the orderly process of such meetings.

Thank you.

cc:

U.S. Department of Justice  
Civil Rights Division  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Office of the Assistant Attorney General, Main  
Washington, D.C. 20530

U.S. Attorney's Office  
970 Broad Street, 7th Floor  
Newark, NJ 07102

Office of the Attorney General  
**Division on Civil Rights**  
P.O. Box 089  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0089

*Please mail your contribution to*

OJPAC  
P.O. Box 852  
Spring Valley, NY  
10977  
[www.OJPAC.org](http://www.OJPAC.org)

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mail it too

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Spring Valley, NY  
10977  
[www.OJPAC.org](http://www.OJPAC.org)


## Robert Hermansen

---

**From:** William Laforet  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 27, 2017 1:46 PM  
**To:** Robert Hermansen; Janet Ariemma; Steve Sbarra; Jonathan Wong; James Wysocki; David May; George Ervin  
**Cc:** Brian Chewcaskie; Quentin Wiest  
**Subject:** FW: Events in Mahwah

-FYI-

---Original Message-----

**From:** ALAN EPSTEIN [mailto:  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 27, 2017 10:48 AM  
**To:** Quentin Wiest  
**Subject:** Events in Mahwah

*Redacted  
Email Address*

*Ke*

Dear Mr. Wiest,

I recently read about events taking place in Mahwah surrounding the eruv placed there, enabling Orthodox Jews to carry/move objects during Sabbath. I also read a petition submitted online and calling for taking the eruv down. The comments under the petition as well as a harassment of a Jewish reporter covering a recent meeting in Mahwah to discuss the matter - among other manifestations - clearly illustrate the level of bigotry, exclusivity and anti-Semitism in your town.

Nobody would dare try to keep other minorities, like African- or Hispanic-Americans out of town (just to give some examples), but Orthodox Jews are a fair target and game. The idea that Orthodox Jews bring down property values is preposterous and a complete lie. Typically speaking, areas with a significant Orthodox Jewish presence are known to experience increase in real estate values. I personally believe that hostility to Orthodox Jews in your town is based on religious intolerance and a good ol' boys/girls club/cliq, for whom obviously Jewish presence in their community is just too much to swallow. Once upon a time, blacks were kept out of various communities and schools in the United States during the segregation era.

Believe me, Orthodox Jews dealt with challenges of this sort in many parts of the United States, and in many cases prevailed.

Many people would have expected better in our supposedly more enlightened and emancipated 21 century day and age as opposed to Mahwah's attitude of "oh my, these Jews are coming!"

Sincerely,

Alan Epstein



**Robert Hermansen**

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**From:** William Laforet  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 27, 2017 1:26 PM  
**To:** Robert Hermansen; Janet Ariemma; Jonathan Wong; James Wysocki; Steve Sbarra; David May; George Ervin  
**Cc:** Brian Chewcaskie; Quentin Wiest; Michael Kelly  
**Subject:** FW: Mahwah Eruv  
**Attachments:** 0053\_001.pdf

FYI

**From:** David Zwiebel [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 27, 2017 10:44 AM  
**To:** William Laforet <WLaforet@mahwahtwp.org>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Mahwah Eruv

Please see the attached letter.

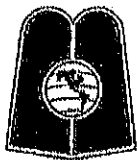
Thank you.

Rabbi David Zwiebel  
Executive Vice President  
Agudath Israel of America  
42 Broadway  
New York, NY 10004

[REDACTED], ext. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Redacted  
Email Addresses  
and  
Telephone #'s





Agudath  
Israel  
of America  
אגודת ישראל באמריקה

בס"ד

OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

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 Well 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 Well 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.

THE RABBI MOSHE SHERER NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
42 Broadway • New York, NY 10004 • 212-797-9000 • Fax: 646-254-1600

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See website for more information

## Robert Hermansen

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**From:** David May  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 27, 2017 10:35 AM  
**To:** Brian Chewcaskie; Brian Chewcaskie; nylema@gmcnjlaw.com; Robert Hermansen  
**Subject:** Fwd: Fencing  
**Attachments:** 20170727\_080254.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Good Morning,

In researching the subject of an Eruv, I continually see that it is described as the marking of a boundary. The marking of a boundary is also what makes up the definition of a fence. It is my opinion that it is accepted that an Eruv is a fence and was even described as that in a Channel 2 news report last night as well as on versions religious websites. According to our ordinance which is attached, no fences are allowed in the right of way. These boundary markers should be removed immediately.

David May  
Councilman  
Township of Mahwah  
475 Corporate Drive  
Mahwah, NJ 07430

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "[mkelly@boswellengineering.com](mailto:mkelly@boswellengineering.com)" <[mkelly@boswellengineering.com](mailto:mkelly@boswellengineering.com)>  
**To:** "David May" <[DMay@mahwahtwp.org](mailto:DMay@mahwahtwp.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: Fencing

Yes, see attached.

Fences are permitted in any yard (Art. 24-5.3d(3)). Yard is defined as an area between the building and the nearest lot line (right-of-way line). Therefore, fences are not permitted in the right-of-way.

In addition, Art. 15-2.4 provides the encroachments that are permitted in the Public Right-of-way.

Mike K.

On 2017-07-26 11:27, David May wrote:

Mike,

I am wondering if we have an ordinance pertaining to fencing in the public right of way. If so, can you point me to it in our code book.

If not, can we look into putting one in place.

David May

Councilman

Township of Mahwah

475 Corporate Drive

Mahwah, NJ 07430

## 24-5.3 Yard Regulations.

a. *General.*

1. Required yards shall be open to the sky, unobstructed except for the ordinary projection of parapets, windowsills, doorposts, rainwater leaders and similar ornamental or structural fixtures which may not project more than six (6") inches into such yards.
2. Cornices and eaves may project not more than two (2') feet over any required yard.
3. Chimneys or flues may be erected within any yard, provided that they do not exceed seventy-five (75) square feet in aggregate external area.

b. *Front yard Requirements Affected by Official Map.* Where any lot shall front on a street right-of-way which is proposed to be widened as indicated on the Official Map of the Township, the front yard and the front or side yard of a corner lot in such district shall be measured from such proposed right-of-way line.c. *Side Yard Exceptions.*

1. Corner Lot. Any corner lot delineated by subdivision after the adoption of this Chapter shall provide a side street setback line which shall not be less than the minimum front yard required on any adjoining lot fronting on a side street, as provided in the schedule identified in Section 24-4 herein.

d. *Projection into Required Yards.* Certain architectural features may project into required yards as follows:

1. Cornices, canopies, eaves, bay windows, balconies, fireplaces, uncovered stairways and necessary landings and chimneys and other similar architectural features may project a distance not to exceed two (2') feet.
2. Patios may be located in any side or rear yard, provided that they are not closer than five (5') feet to any property line.
3. Self-supporting walls and fences may project into any required yard, provided that any accessory retaining wall or fence is not higher than six (6') feet in height and shall not obstruct automobile vision. The requirements of subsection 24-5.1, paragraph c. and subsection 24-6.11, paragraph b. shall also apply where applicable. If there is a conflict between subsection 24-5.3d,3 and subsection 24-6.11, the requirements of subsection 24-6.11 shall have priority.   
*Corner lots*  
*Fence not to exceed 4' in Ht.*

e. *Side Yard Requirements in the B-40, B-200, OP-200, IP-120, GI-80 and GI-200 Zones.*

No building or group of attached buildings shall have an aggregate front building wall in excess of seventy-five (75%) percent of the actual lot width in the B-40, B-200, OP-200, IP-120, GI-80 and GI-200 Zones.

f. *Yard Requirements in the OP-200 Zone.*

1. The minimum front yard requirement in the OP-200 Zone shall be equal to sixty (60') feet plus one (1') foot for each one (1') foot of building height in excess of sixty (60') feet.
2. The minimum side yard in the OP-200 Zone for each side yard shall be equal to thirty (30') feet plus one-half (1/2') foot for each one (1') foot of building height in excess of thirty (30') feet.
3. The minimum rear yard in the OP-200 Zone shall be equal to forty (40') feet plus one (1') foot for each one (1') foot of building height in excess of forty (40') feet.  
 (Ord. #574; Ord. #622; Ord. #883; 1976 Code §179-15; Ord. #1247, §1)

## 24-6.11 Buffer Zone and General Landscaping Requirements.

### a. Buffer Zone Requirements.

1. All commercial, industrial and apartment uses adjoining or abutting a residential zone or institutional or public use shall provide a buffer strip or buffer zone on the side or sides facing said use or zone in accordance with the following table.

Buffer Zone Requirements

Zone	Buffer Zone (feet)		
District	Depth of Buffer Zone	Minimum	Maximum
GA-200	10% of lot depth or width	50	100
B-200	on the side or sides facing		
IP-120	such use or residential		
RM-6	zone		
ORP 200			
B-40	7 1/2% of lot depth or width	25	50
GI-80	on the side or sides facing		
	such use or residential zone		
B-10	5% of the lot depth or width	10	25
	on the side or sides facing		
	such use or residential zone		

PED Zone. A minimum buffer of fifteen (15') feet shall be provided along every area that abuts a property used for residential purposes.

2. No principal or accessory structure, other than as may be provided herein, nor any off-street parking or loading areas or other use shall be permitted within the buffer zone.
3. No access or driveways, other than as may be permitted herein, shall be permitted within the buffer zone.
4. The buffer zone shall be kept in its natural state where wooded, and when natural vegetation is sparse, plant material at least six (6') feet in height and a solid or tightly woven fence may be required so as to provide a year-round visual screen by the Planning Board. The planting may be placed in suitable areas in the buffer zone as shall be required by the Planning Board and the Shade Tree Commission of the Township.
5. Within the buffer zone, underground utility easements shall be permitted.
6. The area encompassed in the buffer zone may be utilized for the purpose of computing lot coverage and yard setbacks.
7. The provisions of paragraph b., 3. shall also apply.

### b. General Landscaping Requirements.

1. Fencing. All fences erected in the Township must be erected so as to have the finished side facing the neighboring lot. No fence shall be erected higher than six (6') feet in height when located behind the front facade line of the principal structure. No fence shall be erected higher than four (4') feet in height when located within the front yard as defined in subsection 24-2.2. Notwithstanding anything contained in this subsection, the fencing of private tennis courts shall comply with the provisions of subsection 24-6.8.
2. Fencing on corner lots shall meet the same requirements as set forth in paragraph b., 1. for interior lots. For the purposes of this paragraph b., 2. only, the side yards of corner lots shall not require front yard dimensions.
3. No fence can be erected within the sight triangle of an intersection as provided for by the existing land use regulations of the Township.
4. Enclosed Uses. Any enclosed use required by this Chapter to be landscaped shall be

provided with a fence or a visual screen designed to produce a dense cover consisting of evergreen or evergreen-type hedges or shrubs, spaced at intervals of not more than six (6') feet, located and maintained in good condition within ten (10') feet of the property line or as shall be determined by the Planning Board. The Planning Board, in the alternative, may require a landscaped earth berm not less than five (5') feet in height.

5. Unenclosed Uses. Any use which is not conducted within a completely enclosed building, such as required off-street parking, shall be entirely enclosed by a solid or closely woven fence or by evergreen hedges or shrubs spaced at intervals of not more than six (6') feet, located and maintained in good condition, within ten (10') feet of the property line or the zone district boundary line or as shall be determined by the Planning Board. In the alternative, the Planning Board may require a landscaped earth berm not less than five (5') feet in height.

6. Maintenance.

(a) Any fencing or landscaping installed in accordance with this section shall be maintained in good order to achieve the objectives of this Chapter. Failure to maintain fencing or to replace dead or diseased landscaping or any refuse which may collect therein shall be considered a violation of this Chapter, in accordance with subsection 24-11.5, paragraph c.

(b) Whenever a buffer or landscaping requirement is imposed, and to the extent that same is in fulfillment of the requirements of this Chapter or any other Township ordinance, a guaranty in the form of a surety bond, cash or security deposit shall be required.

7. Temporary fences (including but not limited to snow fences, construction fences, safety fences and filter fences) are not permitted in the Township of Mahwah for periods in excess of thirty (30) days except when such fences are being actually used in connection with immediate or current construction activity or safety protection activity on the site.

(Ord. #574; Ord. #622; 1978 Code §179-29; Ord. #912; Ord. #1247, §II; Ord. #1293, §I; Ord. #1448)

*Yard* shall mean an open space which lies between the principal or accessory building or buildings and the nearest lot line and is unoccupied and unobstructed from the ground upward except as herein permitted:

- a. *Yard, front* shall mean an open space extending the full width of the lot between a principal building and the front lot line, unoccupied and unobstructed from the ground upward except as may be specified elsewhere in this Chapter. The depth of the front yard shall be measured parallel to and at right angles to the front lot line.
- b. *Yard, rear* shall mean a yard extending across the full width of the lot and lying between the rear line of the lot and the nearest line of the principal or accessory building. The depth of the rear yard shall be measured parallel to the rear property line.
- c. *Yard, side* shall mean an open, unoccupied space between the side line of the lot and the nearest line of the principal or accessory building and extending from the front to the rear yard. The width of the side yard shall be measured parallel to the side line of the lot.



15-2.4 Encroachments in the Public Right-of-Way.

- a. No person shall erect or construct any building, structure, erection or projection in, over or upon any public right-of-way except as permitted by subsection 15-2.4 of this Code.
- b. The following uses of the public right-of-way are permitted as right so long as the use is accessory to the primary use upon the abutting property.
  1. Lawns
  2. Live landscaping less than eighteen (18") inches in height
  3. Sidewalks and driveways
  4. Trees planted with approval of the Township Environmental Commission
  5. Mailboxes meeting U.S. Post Office Regulations and local Construction Code requirements. The structure to which the mailbox is attached shall not exceed forty-eight (48") inches in height, twenty-four (24") inches in width and twenty-four (24") inches in length.
- c. All uses, erections, projections or structures, other than as listed in subsection 15-2.4b, are prohibited unless approved by resolution of the Township Council. Any appurtenant property owner who wants to use the adjacent right-of-way area shall request such permission in writing from the Township Council. The Township Council shall approve or deny the request within forty-five (45) days of receipt of the request.
- d. In considering requests for use of adjacent right-of-way areas the Township Council shall observe the following criteria:
  1. Reports and/or comments shall be obtained from the Chief of Police, Construction Official, Municipal Engineer and Chief of Fire Department. Absence of any reports shall not delay action by the Township Council.
  2. The proposed use of the adjoining right-of-way shall not impair or interfere with use of the right-of-way by vehicles or pedestrians.
  3. All applicable, necessary permits must be obtained from the Construction Official or other agencies which have jurisdiction.
  4. The encroachment must be accessory to the primary use of the abutting property.
  5. The encroachment must not interfere with snow plowing, leaf collection refuse or recycling collection or other municipal services or with roadway or sidewalk maintenance or repair.
  6. The encroachment may not block the sight triangles of motor vehicle operators and may not create any conditions adverse to public safety.
  7. The abutting property shall acknowledge that permission to encroach upon the public right-of-way is revocable at any time by the municipality and that upon revocation the encroachment must be removed by the property owner at his own expense.
- e. All encroachments, structures, uses, erections and constructions in any public right-of-way in the Township of Mahwah which are not authorized under this subsection shall be removed at the expense of the owner or occupant of the abutting property after receipt of written notice from the Township Construction Official, Zoning Enforcement Officer or Property Maintenance Officer.  
(Ord. #1235, §2; Ord. #1273, §1)

**Robert Hermansen**

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**From:** Keith Kaplan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 26, 2017 10:44 PM  
**To:** Robert Hermansen  
**Subject:** Request for comment

Redacted  
Email Address

Dear Council President Hermansen,

As a member of our town's planning board here in a fellow Bergen County community, I have received numerous inquiries from the public and press about the Eruv situation in Mahwah.

These comments, ostensibly by members of your community, to petition against the Eruv have added nothing to an already combustible situation other than matches:

[http://www.thepetitionsite.com/997/206/122/protect-the-quality-of-our-community-in-mahwah/?taf\\_id=39484170&cid=fb\\_na#bbfb=944540060](http://www.thepetitionsite.com/997/206/122/protect-the-quality-of-our-community-in-mahwah/?taf_id=39484170&cid=fb_na#bbfb=944540060)

I now see that individuals have taken matters into their own hands:

<https://patch.com/new-jersey/mahwah/eruv-markers-vandalized-mahwah-police-launch-bias-crime-investigation>

Will you publicly condemn these sentiments, and now criminality?

The eyes of Bergen County are upon you!

Sincerely,

Keith Kaplan  
Vice Chairman  
Teaneck Planning Board

---

This email and any files transmitted with it are privileged and confidential and may be considered advisory, consultative and deliberative material under OPRA. This communication is intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify the system manager. This message contains confidential information and is intended only for the individual named. If you are not the named addressee you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this email. Please notify the sender immediately by email if you have received this email by mistake and delete this email from your system. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that disclosing, copying, distributing or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this information is strictly prohibited.

**Robert Hermansen**

---

**From:** John F. Roth [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 26, 2017 10:12 AM  
**To:** 'Kim Barron'; Robert Hermansen  
**Subject:** RE: FYI...Protest the Dismantling of the Mahwah Eruv

Thank you, Kim. Wonder if he knows the Municipal Building and Court are closed on Sunday!

John

Redacted  
Email Addresses.

**From:** Kim Barron [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 25, 2017 10:22 PM  
**To:** John Roth; Robert Hermansen  
**Subject:** FYI...Protest the Dismantling of the Mahwah Eruv

Ue

Please see link for a protest being hosted by a Marcus Hirschhorn (?) His FB page shows he's "friends" with someone I know so I reached out to that friend to get the scoop on this guy and will report back with whatever I learn. Regards, Kim

<https://www.facebook.com/events/188458488358415/>

I forwarded the info to the Mahwah Strong group as an FYI and texted it to David May

Mahwah is trying to force the Jews to take down the Eruv. There used to be a thing in this country called freedom of religion. I want everybody who can to show up and protest this tyranny.

Even if you aren't Jewish, even if you don't have the slightest clue what an Eruv is, please come to protest the infringement of a basic civil right, that, by the way, doesn't cost taxpayers a dime.

And whether you can make it or not, please don't forget to invite your friends.

The time keeps changing on facebook, but it is 2 pm

**Robert Hermansen**

---

**From:** Kim Barron <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 25, 2017 10:22 PM  
**To:** John F. Roth; Robert Hermansen  
**Subject:** FYI...Protest the Dismantling of the Mahwah Eruv

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Redacted  
Email Address



## Robert Hermansen

---

**From:** Pudell, Steven J. [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 25, 2017 3:31 PM  
**To:** Robert Hermansen; Jonathan Wong; Janet Ariemma; George Ervin; David May; Steve Sbarra; James Wysocki  
**Subject:** Mahwah Eruv -- from a non resident.

Redacted  
Email Address

Dear Council:

I am writing as an individual and not a lawyer. I am not a resident of Mahwah. I live in Teaneck. I am an orthodox Jew – and truly, I think that what members (or purported members) of your community are saying is shocking. (Whether or not you choose to fight the eruv – and spend millions of dollars of tax payer money if you win – and even more if you lose – is your decision, of course.)

Here, however, is what your citizens are saying on an Internet Petition. I bet you did not know that you had such blatant anti-semitism in town. For this reason alone – you should not fight the eruv. Moreover, just substitute “black” or “latinos” – where it says “They” – and let me know if you would stand for it. [http://www.thepetitionsite.com/997/206/122/protect-the-quality-of-our-community-in-mahwah/?taf\\_id=39484170&cid=fb\\_na#bbfb=944540060](http://www.thepetitionsite.com/997/206/122/protect-the-quality-of-our-community-in-mahwah/?taf_id=39484170&cid=fb_na#bbfb=944540060) While I don't think I'd move to Mahwah anytime soon based on the below – I don't believe that I am rude, dirty, nasty, a take – nor do I think that I don't contribute to society.

Some of these are truly shameful. I would be more impressed if the writers and anyone else who opposes the eruv – sign their full name and carry signs that say “NO ORTHODOX JEWS IN MAHWAH!” or “JEWS GO HOME.” At least – this way, we will have no doubt about where they stand. I have edited some of them for space – and not copied all of them:

They are trying to move into Mahwah once they do our schools will suffer, our taxes will go up. And Mahwah will reach new levels of Welfare recipients these people do not contribute to society they are complete takers and will not even say hello they are trying to purchase homes then turn into house of worship so they do not have to pay taxes. These eruvs are a means to be able to have a walking path on our streets which do not even have sidewalks. They do not clean up when they leave our parks even their children do not play nicely pushing our kids down on the playground.

Joshua P.  
New Jersey  
3 days ago

They are clearly trying to annex land like they've been doing in Occupied Palestine. Look up the satanic verses of the Talmud and tell me what you see.

SEND  
name not displayed  
New Jersey  
3 days ago

Protect the Quality of Our Community in Mahwah

SEND  
Steven N.  
New Jersey  
3 days ago

I don't want these rude, nasty, dirty people who think they can do what they want in our nice town

SEND  
name not displayed

New Jersey  
3 days ago

I don't want my town to be gross and infested with these nasty people. I don't live in monsey.

SEND

Erwin M.

New Jersey  
3 days ago

Maintaining the secular nature of our community.

SEND

name not displayed

New Jersey  
3 days ago

We don't need them to ruin our beautiful town!!!

SEND

name not displayed

New Jersey  
3 days ago

Keep Mahwah

We moved to Mahwah.....not NY,

SEND

Mary M.

New Jersey  
3 days ago

Want to maintain integrity of community

SEND

Matthew N.

New Jersey

Janine P.

New Jersey

4 days ago


Because the morals of our community are at stake

There are are eruvs in almost every town in the US. Some have many orthodox Jews, some have very few. Making a concerted effort to keep out orthodox Jews (or any group) is wrong.

Respectfully,

Steve Pudell

Teaneck NJ

Redacted  
Telephone # and Email  
Address 

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## Robert Hermansen

---

**From:** Kathy Coviello  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 25, 2017 9:58 AM  
**To:** Robert Hermansen; Jonathan Wong; Janet Ariemma; David May; George Ervin; Steve Sbarra; James Wysocki  
**Subject:** FW: Eruv  
**Attachments:** O&R re removal of devices.pdf

---

**From:** Carol Janelli [<mailto:cjanelli@gmcnilaw.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 25, 2017 9:39 AM  
**To:** Kathy Coviello  
**Subject:** Eruv

Please see attached for distribution to the Council members. Thank you.

**Carol Janelli | Gittleman, Muhlstok, Chewcaskie, L.L.P.**

*Our Most Important Partners Are Our Clients*

2200 Fletcher Avenue, 5th Floor, Fort Lee, NJ 07024

Office: (201) 944-2300 | Fax: (201) 944-1497

URL: [www.gmcnilaw.com](http://www.gmcnilaw.com) | E-Mail: [cjanelli@gmcnilaw.com](mailto:cjanelli@gmcnilaw.com)

Go Green. Please consider our planet before printing your documents. ♻

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GITTLEMAN, MUHLSTOCK & CHEWCASKIE, L.L.P.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
2200 FLETCHER AVENUE  
9W OFFICE CENTER  
FORT LEE, NEW JERSEY 07024  
(201) 944-2800

MELVIN GITTLEMAN (800-2010)  
STEVEN MUHLSTOCK  
BRIAN M. CHEWCASKIE  
NYLEMA HABBIE (N.J. & N.Y.)

TELECOPIER  
(801) 944-1497

BRIAN M. CHEWCASKIE  
E-MAIL  
brian@gmenlaw.com

July 24, 2017

Thomas Brizzolara, Director of Public Affairs  
Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc.  
1 Blue Hill Plaza  
Pearl River, New York 10965

RE: Eruv on Orange & Rockland Facilities  
Township of Mahwah, NJ

Dear Mr. Brizzolara:

The undersigned is the attorney for the Township of Mahwah. I am advising you that the Township requires the removal of the devices and strips placed on poles owned and maintained by Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc. ("O&R") on certain streets within the Township of Mahwah, which are intended to denote the boundaries of an eruv.

Mahwah's Zoning Ordinance regarding signage prohibits the placement of items on public utility poles. It is the Township's position that this Ordinance prohibits the placement of devices and materials which have been located on O&R's poles which are intended to denote an eruv.

In addition, applicable statutes would require municipal approval for the use by another party of utility poles within Township rights-of-way. More particularly, N.J.S.A. 48:3-19 expressly requires the consent of a municipality when a party seeks to use utility poles owned by another. Furthermore, N.J.S.A. 48:17-10 prohibits the placement of or construction of any pole, conduit, wire or fixture on or upon any public road without approval of the governing body of the municipality, except as to lines maintained by telegraph or telephone companies.

From the foregoing, it is clear that O&R has failed to adhere to local Ordinance, nor has it sought the necessary approvals as required by State statute. For these reasons, the Township hereby directs that the devices and materials placed on the utility poles be immediately removed. Failure to comply with this directive will result in the Township pursuing all available remedies to secure the removal of these devices and fixtures.



Please be guided accordingly.

Very truly yours,

  
BRIAN M. CHENCASKIE

BMC/cj

cc: Timothy P. Cawley, CEO, Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc.

Mayor William Laforet

Mahwah Township Council

Quentin Wiest, Administrator

## Robert Hermansen

---

**From:** William Laforet  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 23, 2017 8:51 PM  
**To:** Robert Hermansen  
**Subject:** Re: Attorney inquiry

Agreed

> On Jul 23, 2017, at 7:40 PM, Robert Hermansen <[RHermansen@mahwahtwp.org](mailto:RHermansen@mahwahtwp.org)> wrote:

>

> The problem is we want nothing on our poles, plain and simple

>

> Sent from my iPad

>

>> On Jul 23, 2017, at 5:15 PM, William Laforet <[WLaforet@mahwahtwp.org](mailto:WLaforet@mahwahtwp.org)> wrote:

>>

>> All, FYI. At approximately noon this afternoon it was reported on

>> Facebook that a story has appeared in the Associated press regarding Mahwah and the letters we have sent.

(Attached) At about 1:23pm I was contacted by an attorney from NYC. It was a general inquiry seeking clarification as to what the Townships issue is with the ERUV.

>> I bring this to your attention. I am forwarding our Township Attorney any and all inquiries as we receive them, with the specifics.

>>

>> <https://apnews.com/O3f0754ef93d4e69bd7a29dc3ad07cad>

>>

## Robert Hermansen

---

**From:** William Laforet  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 23, 2017 5:16 PM  
**To:** Robert Hermansen; Jonathan Wong; Janet Ariemma; James Wysocki; George Ervin; Steve Sbarra; David May; Quentin Wiest; Brian Chewcaskie; Mike Kelly  
**Subject:** Attorney inquiry

All, FYI. At approximately noon this afternoon it was reported on Facebook that a story has appeared in the Associated press regarding Mahwah and the letters we have sent. (Attached) At about 1:23pm I was contacted by an attorney from NYC. It was a general inquiry seeking clarification as to what the Townships issue is with the ERUV. I bring this to your attention. I am forwarding our Township Attorney any and all inquiries as we receive them, with the specifics.

<https://apnews.com/03f0754ef93d4e69bd7a29dc3ad07cad>

## Robert Hermansen

---

**From:** Frank Orlich <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 23, 2017 4:52 PM  
**To:** William Laforet; Robert Hermansen; Jonathan Wong; Janet Ariemma; George Ervin; David May; Steve Sbarra; James Wysocki  
**Subject:** Violation of Township Ordinance  
**Attachments:** Orange and Rockland Utility Pole Use-Cawley.docx; Orange and Rockland Utility Pole Use-Scheiler.docx; Orange and Rockland Utility Pole Use-Pervery.docx

While it is a good start notifying The Eruv Fund of Spring Valley NY that they are in violation of Mahwah zoning ordinances related to signage I think it is important that the Township formally notify the executives of Orange and Rockland Utilities ("O&R") that they erroneously approved a measure in violation of Mahwah zoning ordinances. O&R has posted notices on their own website regarding the illegal placement of signage on their utility poles. I ask that each of you individually or as a united council send a letter to the Board of Directors and executives of O&R notifying them that their approval allowing The Eruv Fund of Spring Valley NY to place a permanent structure on utility poles is a violation of Mahwah's zoning ordinance and request that all of the illegal structures be removed immediately.

I've attached 3 letters I am sending tomorrow to the Secretary of the Board of Directors as well as the President and Chief Executive Office and the Chief Operating Officer.

Regards  
Frank Orlich  
89 McIntosh Drive  
Mahwah, NJ  
[REDACTED]

Redacted  
Email Address  
and Telephone #



**Frank P. Orlich**

---

89 McIntosh Drive  
Mahwah, NJ 07480

July 24, 2017

Mr. Timothy P. Cawley  
CEO & President Orange & Rockland Utilities Inc.  
4 Irving Place  
New York, New York 10003

Dear Mr. Cawley,

Recently, Orange and Rockland Utilities ("O&R") approved the installation of plastic piping on utility poles residing in the Township of Mahwah without notifying the Township and in violation of our municipal ordinance governing signage. Mahwah's signage ordinance was enacted to protect all of our residents but particularly law enforcement, first responders and utility workers who must utilize the poles unobstructed view and identification markings in emergency situations. By allowing the South Monsey Eruv Fund of Spring Valley New York to install material not directly related to the service and identification of these utility poles you are placing the residents of Mahwah as well as your own utility workers in danger. O&R cites this risk on your website regarding posting signs on your utility poles.

- Unfortunately, those signs and posters usually are affixed to the poles with staples, tacks or nails, which present a potential hazard to O&R employees working on the poles.
  - Further, such signs can obscure the pole's 10-digit I.D. number, hindering customer efforts to determine a definitive pole location when reporting outages or damage.
  - In addition, signs on poles may impair sight lines at intersections, or otherwise present a visual distraction to motorists. And, once the campaigns have taken place, the outdated signs remain as an eyesore and eventually a litter nuisance.
- <https://www.oru.com/en/about-orange-rockland/media/news/20150929/safety-political-candidates-signs>

Once you allow one group to attach items not related to the utility pole function you open the door to any group to do the same. I assume O&R was not aware of Mahwah's municipal ordinance when your company erroneously gave approval for installation so I respectfully ask that you notify the South Monsey Eruv Fund of Spring Valley, New York to immediately cease and desist installation of any material installed on utility poles residing in the Township of Mahwah and ask them to remove any material already installed. Thank You.

Regards,

Frank Orlich

**Frank P. Orlich**

---

89 McIntosh Drive  
Mahwah, NJ 07430

July 24, 2017

Mr. Francis W. Peverly  
Vice President of Operations, Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc.  
390 West Route 59  
Spring Valley, New York 10977

Dear Mr. Peverly,

Recently, Orange and Rockland Utilities ("O&R") approved the installation of plastic piping on utility poles residing in the Township of Mahwah without notifying the Township and in violation of our municipal ordinance governing signage. Mahwah's signage ordinance was enacted to protect all of our residents but particularly law enforcement, first responders and utility workers who must utilize the poles unobstructed view and identification markings in emergency situations. By allowing the South Monsey Eruv Fund of Spring Valley New York to install material not directly related to the service and identification of these utility poles you are placing the residents of Mahwah as well as your own utility workers in danger. O&R cites this risk on your website regarding posting signs on your utility poles.

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Regards,

Frank Orlich

Frank P. Orlich

---

89 McIntosh Drive  
Mahwah, NJ 07430

July 24, 2017

Ms. Jeanmarie Schieler  
Corporate Secretary  
Con Edison  
4 Irving Place  
New York, New York 10003

Dear Ms. Schieler,

I'd like to make the Board of Directors aware of a situation that violates an ordinance in the town I reside in. Recently, Orange and Rockland Utilities ("O&R") approved the installation of plastic piping on utility poles residing in the Township of Mahwah without notifying the Township and in violation of our municipal ordinance governing signage. Mahwah's signage ordinance was enacted to protect all of our residents but particularly law enforcement, first responders and utility workers who must utilize the poles unobstructed view and identification markings in emergency situations. By allowing the South Monsey Eruv Fund of Spring Valley New York to install material not directly related to the service and identification of these utility poles you are placing the residents of Mahwah as well as your own utility workers in danger. O&R cites this risk on your website regarding posting signs on your utility poles.

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Once you allow one group to attach items not related to the utility pole function you open the door to any group to do the same. I assume O&R was not aware of Mahwah's municipal ordinance when your company erroneously gave approval for this installation so I respectfully ask that you notify the South Monsey Eruv Fund of Spring Valley, New York to immediately cease and desist installation of any material installed on utility poles residing in the Township of Mahwah and ask them to remove any material already installed. Please share this letter with members of the Board as you see appropriate. Thank You.

Regards,

Frank Orlich

## Robert Hermansen

---

**From:** William Laforet  
**Sent:** Friday, July 21, 2017 3:30 PM  
**To:** Robert Hermansen; Steve Sbarra; Jonathan Wong; James Wysocki; Janet Ariemma; David May; George Ervin; Quentin Wiest; Brian Chewcaskie  
**Subject:** Fwd: ERUV  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg; ATT00001.htm; image002.jpg; ATT00002.htm; image003.jpg; ATT00003.htm; image004.png; ATT00004.htm; eruv.pdf; ATT00005.htm

**Subject:** ERUV

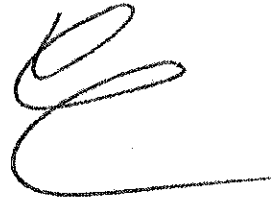
All, Mahwah Mayor and Council address ERUV

Today I ordered our Zoning Official to take action regarding the placement of PVC pipes on public utility poles which is consistent with the placement of signs on utility poles which is a violation of our sign ordinances. Formal correspondence have been sent to the organization and contractors who are responsible and notified Orange & Rockland.

As elected officials we take our responsibilities very seriously and are very concerned. Our elected responsibilities are to serve the public and enforce the laws of the Township of Mahwah. This sends a very strong message to those who choose to violate our sign ordinances.

**Cell** [REDACTED]  
*Mayor Bill Laforet.*

Redacted  
Telephone #







## *Township Of Mahwah*

Municipal Offices: 475 Corporate Drive  
P.O. Box 733 • Mahwah, NJ 07430  
Tel 201-529-5757 • Fax 201-512-0537

Board of Adjustment x 245

Property Maintenance x 246

Zoning/Planning Board x 245

**VIA CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**  
**And VIA REGULAR MAIL**

July 21, 2017

South Monsey Eruv Fund  
31 Morris Road  
Spring Valley, NY 10977

Re: Installation of Signs on Utility Poles  
**Zoning Violations**  
East Mahwah Road, Airmont Avenue,  
Masonic Road and Sparrowbush Road  
Township of Mahwah  
Our File No. MA-75-28

To Whom It May Concern:

It has come to my attention that the South Monsey Eruv Fund has installed an eruv along utility poles in the Township of Mahwah. In reviewing the Zoning Ordinance of the Township of Mahwah, same is impermissible as the installation of an eruv would constitute a sign on a utility pole.

I direct your attention to the following section of the Township of Mahwah Zoning Ordinance, which defines a sign as follows: "Sign shall mean any device for visual communication that is used for the purpose of bringing the subject thereof to the attention of the public". (Section 24-2.2). Further, the Township Zoning Ordinance specifically prohibits the following signs within all zones in the Township: "Signs placed on trees, rocks or utility poles". (Section 24-6.8F(3)(c)).

In reviewing the ordinance, the installation of an eruv constitutes a prohibited activity and is therefore in violation of the ordinance sections mentioned herein. You must take the appropriate steps to remove the eruv that has been presently installed and cease further installation of same.

You must commence the removal of the eruv no later than July 28, 2017 and must complete the removal of all eruv no later than August 4, 2017. Should these deadlines not be met, we will recommend that summonses be issued for the violations that have occurred. In addition, you must provide me with notification of the commencement of removal.

South Monsey Eruv Fund  
July 21, 2017  
Page 2

If you have any questions concerning the applicability of the ordinance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

BOSWELL McCLAVE ENGINEERING

Michael J. Kelly, P.E.  
Administrative Officer  
Department of Land Use and  
Property Maintenance

MJK/jg

cc: The Honorable Mayor and Council  
Quentin Wiest, Township Business Administrator  
Kathrine G. Coviello, Township Clerk  
Geri Entrup, Planning Department  
Chief James N. Batelli, Mahwah Police Department  
Kenny Sullivan, Rockland Electric Company  
Michelle Damiani, Rockland Electric Company  
Chaim Steinmetz

170721JG11.doc



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Tel 201-529-5757 • Fax 201-512-0537

Board of Adjustment x 245

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Zoning/Planning Board x 245

**VIA CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**  
**And VIA REGULAR MAIL**

July 21, 2017

Vaad Heiruv Inc.  
51 Ashel Lane or 56 Crest Court  
P.O. Box 118  
Monsey, NY 10952

Re: Installation of Signs on Utility Poles  
Zoning Violations  
East Mahwah Road, Airmont Avenue,  
Masonic Road and Sparrowbush Road  
Township of Mahwah  
Our File No. MA-75-28

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South Monsey Eruv Fund  
July 21, 2017  
Page 2

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Very truly yours,

BOSWELL McCLAVE ENGINEERING

Michael J. Kelly, P.E.  
Administrative Officer  
Department of Land Use and  
Property Maintenance

MJK/jg

cc: The Honorable Mayor and Council  
Quentin Wiest, Township Business Administrator  
Kathrine G. Coviello, Township Clerk  
Geri Entrup, Planning Department  
Chief James N. Batelli, Mahwah Police Department  
Kenny Sullivan, Rockland Electric Company  
Michelle Damiani, Rockland Electric Company  
Chairman Steinmetz

170721JG12.doc

**Robert Hermansen**

---

**From:** Kathy Coviello  
**Sent:** Friday, July 21, 2017 3:09 PM  
**To:** Robert Hermansen; Jonathan Wong; Janet Ariemma; David May; George Ervin; Steve Sbarra; James Wysocki  
**Subject:** FW: Zoning Violations - Eruv Installation  
**Attachments:** 20170721\_145515.pdf; 20170721\_145536.pdf

-----Original Message-----

From: [mkelly@boswellengineering.com](mailto:mkelly@boswellengineering.com) [mailto:[mkelly@boswellengineering.com](mailto:mkelly@boswellengineering.com)]

Sent: Friday, July 21, 2017 3:07 PM

To: William Laforet; Quentin Wiest; Kathy Coviello; Geri Entrup; Chief James N. Batelli; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Brian Chewcaskie; Daniel Mairella

Cc: [mkelly@boswellengineering.com](mailto:mkelly@boswellengineering.com)

Subject: Zoning Violations - Eruv Installation

Hi all,

Please see copies of 2 letter that have been sent out with respect to the eruv installation in Mahwah. One was sent to the organization that funded the installation and the other went to the Contractor.

Kathy,

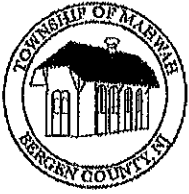
Please provide copies to the Council.

Thank you,

Mike K.

Redacted  
Email Addresses





## *Township Of Mahwah*

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P.O. Box 733 • Mahwah, NJ 07430  
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31 Morris Road  
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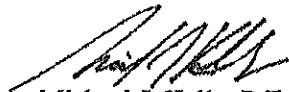
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South Monsey Eruv Fund  
July 21, 2017  
Page 2

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Very truly yours,

BOSWELL McCLAVE ENGINEERING



Michael J. Kelly, P.E.  
Administrative Officer  
Department of Land Use and  
Property Maintenance

MJK/jg

cc: The Honorable Mayor and Council  
Quentin Wiest, Township Business Administrator  
Kathrine G. Coviello, Township Clerk  
Geri Entrup, Planning Department  
Chief James N. Batelli, Mahwah Police Department  
Kenny Sullivan, Rockland Electric Company  
Michelle Damiani, Rockland Electric Company  
Chaim Steinmetz

170721JCH1.doc



## *Township Of Mahwah*

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Property Maintenance x 246

Board of Adjustment x 245

Zoning/Planning Board x 245

**VIA CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**  
**And VIA REGULAR MAIL**

July 21, 2017

Vaad Heiruv Inc.  
51 Ashel Lane or 56 Crest Court  
P.O. Box 118  
Monsey, NY 10952

Re: Installation of Signs on Utility Poles  
**Zoning Violations**  
East Mahwah Road, Airmont Avenue,  
Masonic Road and Sparrowbush Road  
Township of Mahwah  
Our File No. MA-75-28

To Whom It May Concern:

It has come to my attention that the South Monsey Eruv Fund has installed an eruv along utility poles in the Township of Mahwah. In reviewing the Zoning Ordinance of the Township of Mahwah, same is impermissible as the installation of an eruv would constitute a sign on a utility pole.

I direct your attention to the following section of the Township of Mahwah Zoning Ordinance, which defines a sign as follows: "Sign shall mean any device for visual communication that is used for the purpose of bringing the subject thereof to the attention of the public". (Section 24-2.2). Further, the Township Zoning Ordinance specifically prohibits the following signs within all zones in the Township: "Signs placed on trees, rocks or utility poles". (Section 24-6.8F(3)(c)).

In reviewing the ordinance, the installation of an eruv constitutes a prohibited activity and is therefore in violation of the ordinance sections mentioned herein. You must take the appropriate steps to remove the eruv that has been presently installed and cease further installation of same.

You must commence the removal of the eruv no later than July 28, 2017 and must complete the removal of all eruv no later than August 4, 2017. Should these deadlines not be met, we will recommend that summonses be issued for the violations that have occurred. In addition, you must provide me with notification of the commencement of removal.

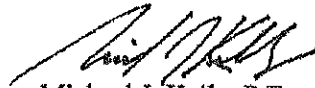


South Monsey Eruv Fund  
July 21, 2017  
Page 2

If you have any questions concerning the applicability of the ordinance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

BOSWELL McCLAVE ENGINEERING



Michael J. Kelly, P.E.  
Administrative Officer  
Department of Land Use and  
Property Maintenance

MJK/jg

cc: The Honorable Mayor and Council  
Quentin Wiest, Township Business Administrator  
Kathrine G. Coviello, Township Clerk  
Geri Entrup, Planning Department  
Chief James N. Batelli, Mahwah Police Department  
Kenny Sullivan, Rockland Electric Company  
Michelle Damiani, Rockland Electric Company  
Chaim Steinmetz

170721JG12.doc

**Robert Hermansen**

---

**From:** Kathryn Vallis [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 21, 2017 10:55 AM  
**To:** William Laforet  
**Cc:** Robert Hermansen; Jonathan Wong; Janet Ariemma; George Ervin; David May; Steve Sbarra; James Wysocki  
**Subject:** Resident Concern

Dear Mayor Laforet and members of the Township Council,

As a home owner in Mahwah, I am extremely concerned for the future of our town.

I grew up in Mahwah (class of 2006) and couldn't wait to move back to my hometown and purchase a home after I got married, and look forward to raising my children here. However, I am now overly scared and concerned based on what has been happening this week with the Eruv.

As I realize there are many many concerns from our residents, the two main issues are as follows:

If their community starts moving into and living in Mahwah, the value of all of our homes will immediately decrease tremendously and our school councils will be taken over, which in turn will result in the schools becoming run-down, funds diminished, and no one will want to move here because our Blue Ribbon reputation will be no more.. we will become another statistic of a town who was taken over, and can't get out.

How can we allow something like that to happen, not only in Mahwah but other prestigious towns in Bergen County (USR, Montvale, Waldwick, etc.)?

Bergen County is known across the country as one of the most desired places to live - this won't only negatively affect our county, but New Jersey as a state.

**I put my faith in you all that you will fight to protect our town to the best of your ability, and I hope to be able to help in any way I can.**

Please keep us updated.

Thank you,

Kathryn (Schaub) Vallis

Kathryn Vallis  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Redacted  
Email Addresses  
and  
Telephone #



## Robert Hermansen

---

**From:** David May  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 20, 2017 3:54 PM  
**To:** William Laforet  
**Cc:** Brian Chewcaskie; Robert Hermansen; George Ervin; Janet Ariemma; Jonathan Wong; James Wysocki; Steve Sbarra; Quentin Wiest  
**Subject:** Re: March 2017 - ERUV permit - Mahwah  
**Attachments:** image1.PNG



David May  
Councilman  
Township of Mahwah  
475 Corporate Drive  
Mahwah, NJ 07430

On Jul 19, 2017, at 12:21 PM, William Laforet <[WLaforet@mahwahtwp.org](mailto:WLaforet@mahwahtwp.org)> wrote:

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Thanks.

*Mayor Bill Laforet*

<image001.jpg><image002.jpg><image003.jpg><image004.png>

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William "Bill" Laforet  
Mayor Township of Mahwah  
475 Corporate Drive  
Mahwah, New Jersey 07430  
201-529-5757 ex 267  
[wlaforet@mahwahtwp.org](mailto:wlaforet@mahwahtwp.org)

Redacted-  
Attorney-  
Client  
Privilege.  
*[Signature]*

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Gittleman Muhlstock & Chewcaskie  
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201-944-2300  
[brian@gmcnjlaw.com](mailto:brian@gmcnjlaw.com)

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Mayor Bill Laforet

*Mayor Bill Laforet*

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William "Bill" Laforet

Mayor Township of Mahwah

475 Corporate Drive

Mahwah, New Jersey 07430

201-529-5757 ex 267

[wlaforet@mahwahtwp.org](mailto:wlaforet@mahwahtwp.org)

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**Sent:** Wednesday, May 10, 2017 5:06 PM

**To:** Brian Chewcaskie <[brian@gmcmilaw.com](mailto:brian@gmcmilaw.com)>; Robert Hermansen <[RHermansen@mahwahtwp.org](mailto:RHermansen@mahwahtwp.org)>

**Cc:** Quentin Wiest <[QWiest@mahwahtwp.org](mailto:QWiest@mahwahtwp.org)>

**Subject:** FW: March 2017 - ERUV permit - Mahwah

Redacted  
Attorney-  
Client  
Privilege  
and Telephone  
#

[REDACTED]

**Cell** [REDACTED]

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[wlaforet@mahwahtwp.org](mailto:wlaforet@mahwahtwp.org)

**From:** Damiani, Michelle [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 10, 2017 2:41 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] William Laforet <[WLaforet@mahwahtwp.org](mailto:WLaforet@mahwahtwp.org)>  
**Cc:** Chief James N. Batelli <[JBatelli@mahwahpd.org](mailto:JBatelli@mahwahpd.org)>  
**Subject:** March 2017 - ERUV permit - Mahwah

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Kenny Sullivan is O&R's Joint Use Facilitator and he can be reached at [REDACTED] for further questions.

Regards, Michelle

<84b71852-6958-4f16-85fd-0bcd1b939e5a-131389117428639101.xlsx>

Redacted  
Email Addresses  
and Telephone  
#s



This was nice. And it worked really well up until we were kicked out of Israel. Now if we try to put a stone wall up across Broadway or Main Street, people are inexplicably unsympathetic.

So, operating on the well-known fact that walls have doorways, we just put up string of doorways around the area where Jews live. The telephone pole becomes a doorpost, the wire running over the top of the pole becomes the "lintel" (i.e. the top of the doorframe). In fact, using telephone poles, buildings, string, light poles, embankments and a variety of other things, most of which are already in place, we create a continuous wall around the neighborhoods where Jews live. The wall is mostly invisible to people who don't know what to look for.

Life being what it is, we don't want to make what we put up too obvious. There are several reasons. Firstly, it's chutzpadik to make it glaringly obvious. Our neighbors have spent hundreds of millions of dollars making these neighborhoods beautiful and we are prepared to do something ugly? Secondly, we don't want to invite vandalism, either by anti-Semites or by bored children. Thirdly, doing it unobtrusively is frequently cheaper. Lastly, doing it unobtrusively creates shalom with the goyim around us.

Now, of course, we need permission from everyone whose property we touch. The utilities, which own the poles, the property owners that our lines cross, the government, which owns the streets that we cross, and sometimes neighborhood associations, all must give us permission or else we can't do it. We need to follow the building code from Jewish law and the building code from where ever we are living now. (They usually don't contradict each other.) For centuries now, we have been able to put up these "walls" at the boundary, the eruv, of the Jewish neighborhoods.

Since the purpose of the eruv is to carry food to where it is needed, we keep food, for any Jew who wants to get it on Shabbos, in a specific location inside the eruv. The proper blessing is made, and then we have an eruv. Usually, we use Passover matza. (Frequently the matza is kept at a synagogue. If the men run out of food for Shalosh Seudos, they might dip into the "eruv" (the matza upon which the blessing is made), and the Rabbi has to replenish the supply before the next Shabbos.

Every week the wall should be checked to make sure it is kosher. Frequently there is a break of some sort. So the checkers call out a repair crew and fix it if possible. Then they notify the community whether the eruv is "up" or "down." If it is down, then people who have made plans to eat with friends may have to quickly prepare a meal at home.

Hundreds of cities in the US and around the world have eruvs. There is a separate page devoted to this website. Many cities have more than one because there is more than one Jewish neighborhood.

The average eruv costs \$40,000 to erect. Like any modern building project, it can cost more to deal with the unexpected. For more information, visit [www.didtheyvote.com](http://www.didtheyvote.com) or call 1-800-444-4444.

Brought to you by [www.didtheyvote.com](http://www.didtheyvote.com)

See website for more information

## Robert Hermansen

---

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**Sent:** Wednesday, July 19, 2017 12:22 PM  
**To:** Brian Chewcaskie  
**Cc:** Robert Hermansen; George Ervin; Janet Ariemma; Jonathan Wong; James Wysocki; David May; Steve Sbarra; Quentin Wiest  
**Subject:** RE: March 2017 - ERUV permit - Mahwah

[REDACTED]

Thanks.

*Mayor Bill Laforet*



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Client  
Privilege*

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Redacted  
Telephone #

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

## Robert Hermansen

---

**From:** George Ervin  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 19, 2017 11:02 AM  
**To:** William Laforet  
**Cc:** Brian Chewcaskie; Robert Hermansen; Janet Ariemma; Jonathan Wong; James Wysocki; David May; Steve Sbarra; Quentin Wiest  
**Subject:** Re: March 2017 - ERUV permit - Mahwah  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.png

I believe we need to take an extremely close look at the Tenaflly case. Upon reading what I have thus far, Tenaflly doesn't appear to have lost that case. It appears that they eventually approved the eruv to avoid further litigation based on selective enforcement of the ordinance regarding signage on utility poles.

The eruv there was not able to be removed during litigation.

Perhaps we should review our ordinance regarding this as well.

Just my two cents.

George Ervin  
Councilman

Sent from my iPad

*Redacted  
Attorney-Client  
Privilege*

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[wlaforet@mahwahtwp.org](mailto:wlaforet@mahwahtwp.org)

**From:** William Laforet  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 10, 2017 5:06 PM  
**To:** Brian Chewcaskie <[brian@gmcnjlaw.com](mailto:brian@gmcnjlaw.com)>; Robert Hermansen <[RHermansen@mahwahtwp.org](mailto:RHermansen@mahwahtwp.org)>  
**Cc:** Quentin Wiest <[QWiest@mahwahtwp.org](mailto:QWiest@mahwahtwp.org)>  
**Subject:** FW: March 2017 - ERUV permit - Mahwah

[REDACTED]

*Cell [REDACTED]  
Mayor Bill Laforet.*

<image001.jpg><image002.jpg><image003.jpg><image004.png>

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Redacted  
Attorney-Client  
Privilege,  
Email Address  
and Telephone  
#15  
4

**From:** Damiani, Michelle [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 10, 2017 2:41 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] William Laforet <[WLaforet@mahwahtwp.org](mailto:WLaforet@mahwahtwp.org)>  
**Cc:** Chief James N. Batelli <[JBatelli@mahwahpd.org](mailto:JBatelli@mahwahpd.org)>  
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Regards, Michelle

<84b71852-6958-4f16-85fd-0bcd1b939e5a-131389117428639101.xlsx>

## Robert Hermansen

---

**From:** David May  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 19, 2017 10:33 AM  
**To:** William Laforet  
**Cc:** Brian Chewcaskie; Robert Hermansen; George Ervin; Janet Ariemma; Jonathan Wong; James Wysocki; Steve Sbarra; Quentin Wiest  
**Subject:** Re: March 2017 - ERUV permit - Mahwah

My question is why is Orange and Rockland telling residents that the municipality does need to approve this and that the town has already approved?

Can we have representatives from O&R attend our next meeting?

David May  
Councilman  
Township of Mahwah  
475 Corporate Drive  
Mahwah, NJ 07430

On Jul 19, 2017, at 7:37 AM, William Laforet <WLaforet@mahwahtwp.org> wrote:

Yes, you are correct, May 10, 2017 attached, Thanks

*Mayor Bill Laforet*

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**Cc:** Robert Hermansen <RHermansen@mahwahtwp.org>; George Ervin <GErvin@mahwahtwp.org>; Janet Ariemma <JAriemma@mahwahtwp.org>; Jonathan Wong <JWong@mahwahtwp.org>; James Wysocki <JWysocki@mahwahtwp.org>; David May <DMay@mahwahtwp.org>; Steve Sbarra <SSbarra@mahwahtwp.org>; Quentin Wiest <QWiest@mahwahtwp.org>  
**Subject:** Re: March 2017 - ERUV permit - Mahwah

Brian M Chewcaskie  
Gittleman Muhlstrock & Chewcaskie

Redacted  
Attorney-Client  
Privilege  
We

2200 Fletcher Ave.  
Fort Lee, NJ 07024  
201-944-2300  
[brlan@gmcnjlaw.com](mailto:brlan@gmcnjlaw.com)

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Attorney  
Client  
Bunley

*[Handwritten signature]*



From: William Laforet  
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 5:06 PM  
To: Brian Chewcaskle <brian@gmcnlaw.com>; Robert Hermansen <RHermansen@mahwahtwp.org>  
Cc: Quentin Wiest <QWiest@mahwahtwp.org>  
Subject: FW: March 2017 - ERUV permit - Mahwah

Brian, I am under the impression that we can fight this route. Tenafly being the example of a community who did not accept this activity. As a point of information, there was discussion that these contractors needing MPD special detail. Can we refuse them. We are concerned about the timing of this event and we would like to discuss at your earliest convenience.

Cell [REDACTED]  
Mayor Bill Laforet.

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Cc: Chief James N. Batelli <JBatelli@mahwahpd.org>  
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Redacted -  
Email Addresses,  
Telephone #s  
[Signature]

**Robert Hermansen**

---


**From:** William Laforet  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 19, 2017 7:38 AM  
**To:** Brian Chewcaskie  
**Cc:** Robert Hermansen; George Ervin; Janet Ariemma; Jonathan Wong; James Wysocki; David May; Steve Sbarra; Quentin Wiest  
**Subject:** RE: March 2017 - ERUV permit - Mahwah

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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Gittleman Muhlstock & Chewcaskie  
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**Cell 201-452-2477**

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Addresses &  
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Order	Status	Instance Reason	Job Type	Pole Number	Number of Attachments	Energized Attachment
1	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55673-40110	1	False
2	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	556724099	1	False
3	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55671-40086	1	False
4	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55670-40074	1	False
5	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	556649-40061	1	False
6	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55668-40050	1	False
7	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55668-40034	1	False
8	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55668-40027	1	False
9	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55668-40013	1	False
10	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55670-39982	1	False
11	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55670-39873	1	False
12	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55671-39960	1	False
13	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55669-39826	1	False
14	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55668-39814	1	False
15	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55666-39899	1	False
16	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55664-39884	1	False
17	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	20593	1	False
18	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55661-39852	1	False
19	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55660-39833	1	False
20	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55659-39816	1	False
21	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55656-39796	1	False
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24	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55651-39761	1	False
25	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55651-39750	1	False
26	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55652-34239	1	False
27	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55653-39726	1	False
28	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55655-39714	1	False
29	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55656-39701	1	False
30	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55656-39688	1	False
31	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55670-39690	1	False
32	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55683-39682	1	False
33	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55706-39693	1	False
34	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55714-39693	1	False
35	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	5571-39683	1	False
36	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55708-39673	1	False
37	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55705-39663	1	False
38	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55701-39652	1	False
39	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55698-34643	1	False
40	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55695-39633	1	False
41	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	5569-39620	1	False
42	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55619-3968	1	False
43	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55686-39597	1	False
44	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55682-39853	1	False
45	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55479-39571	1	False

46	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55677-39559	1	False
47	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55724-39545	1	False
48	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55672-39531	1	False
49	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55672-39517	1	False
50	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55672-39505	1	False
51	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55672-39492	1	False
52	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	39478	1	False
53	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55673-39467	1	False
54	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55673-39456	1	False
55	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55697-39451	1	False
56	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55708-39449	1	False
57	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55725-39446	1	False
58	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55731-39445	1	False
59	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55743-39441	1	False
60	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55757-39437	1	False
61	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55770-39432	1	False
62	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55784-39427	1	False
63	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55837-39405	1	False
64	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55908-34406	1	False
65	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55794-39417	1	False
66	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55825-39411	1	False
67	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55819-39405	1	False
68	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55836-39396	1	False
69	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	59858-39396	1	False
70	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55878-39404	1	False
71	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55915-39406	1	False
72	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55930-39406	1	False
73	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55942-39406	1	False
74	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55953-39405	1	False
75	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55964-39902	1	False
76	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55976-39401	1	False
77	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	55996-39397	1	False
78	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	56008-39395	1	False
79	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	56020-39384	1	False
80	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	56034-39386	1	False
81	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	56049-39383	1	False
82	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	56064-39380	1	False
83	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	56078-39378	1	False
84	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	56098-39375	1	False
85	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	56098-39379	1	False
86	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	56135-39338	1	False
87	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	56150-39333	1	False
88	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	56346-39273	1	False
89	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	56357-39268	1	False
90	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	56360-39265	1	False
91	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	56368-39253	1	False
92	Accepted	Accepted	Attach	56368-39253	1	False

**Robert Hermansen**

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**From:** William Laforet  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 10, 2017 5:06 PM  
**To:** Brian Chewcaskie; Robert Hermansen  
**Cc:** Quentin Wiest  
**Subject:** FW: March 2017 - ERUV permit - Mahwah  
**Attachments:** 84b71852-6958-4f16-85fd-0bcd1b939e5a-131389117428639101.xlsx

**Cell:** [REDACTED]  
*Mayor Bill Laforet.*



Mahwah selected the Safest Community in all of New Jersey 2014

William "Bill" Laforet  
Mayor Township of Mahwah  
475 Corporate Drive  
Mahwah, New Jersey 07430  
201-529-5757 ex 267  
[wlaforet@mahwahtwp.org](mailto:wlaforet@mahwahtwp.org)

*Redacted -  
Attorney-Client  
Privilege, Email  
Addresses  
Telephone #*

**From:** Damiani, Michelle [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 10, 2017 2:41 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]; William Laforet <[WLaforet@mahwahtwp.org](mailto:WLaforet@mahwahtwp.org)>  
**Cc:** Chief James N. Batelli <[JBatelli@mahwahpd.org](mailto:JBatelli@mahwahpd.org)>  
**Subject:** March 2017 - ERUV permit - Mahwah

Mayor,

Attached you will find a list of poles that have been permitted by RECO for ERUV to be installed through the Joint Use agreement process.  
Kenny Sullivan is O&R's Joint Use Facilitator and he can be reached at [REDACTED] for further questions.

Regards, Michelle

**Robert Hermansen**

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**From:** Melanie Sue [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 02, 2017 2:11 PM  
**To:** Robert Hermansen; Jonathan Wong  
**Subject:** Inquiry to join lawsuit

Dear Rob and Jonathan,

I'm curious if the town council is aware of any lawsuit filed against Rockland Electric with regard to the placement of the eruv. I believe the county of Rockland has initiated one. Will Mahwah join or need to start their own? My understanding is that the eruv was never installed in Park ridge last year. They are covered by PSEG. But the current townships involved with this issue are covered by Rockland Electric. Seems like a clear cut separation of state/religion. The utility company should not be using the poles in this way. Can you please advise on this matter? Thank you.

~Melanie Sue (resident on Grenadier drive)  
[REDACTED]

Redacted  
Email Addresses



## Robert Hermansen

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**From:** Dave Rojek [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 31, 2017 3:38 PM  
**To:** Robert Hermansen; Jonathan Wong; Janet Ariemma; George Ervin; David May; Steve Sbarra; James Wysocki  
**Subject:** Your Views @ The Record

Members of the Council:

For your information, I sent this letter to the editor to the Record last week. As of Monday, it has yet to appear in print.

The Council and the town attorney may wish to consider that the issue of the eruv might not necessarily be one about religion but rather one about violated private property rights. We should not others be in control of the issue in the public and judicial eyes, steering it to where they want it to be - religious rights. Rather, we should get in control of it and steer the issue toward (non-volatile, secular) property rights.

Dave Rojek

Redacted -  
Email  
Addresses

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**From:** Dave Rojek [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 26, 2017 2:54 PM  
**To:** 'LettersToTheEditor@northjersey.com'  
**Subject:** Your Views

Regarding the Mahwah Eruv issue, the writers of the articles and editorial should have first consulted with the Record's Legal Counsel. Had they done so, they would have learned that probably this is not at all an issue of religious freedom, but rather one of private property rights and unauthorized trespass.


For the most part, utility poles and lines are located on and over privately-owned property that is adjacent to roadways, and usually a portion of these adjacent private properties contain a legal right-of-way possessed by municipalities for use for the "general public good". For such general public good, municipalities have granted a use-license to certain public utilities of the municipality's legal right-of-way. A examination would probably find that such utilities have not been granted the ability from the municipality to sub-grant their use-license on their own, especially to entities having nothing to do with the general public good, but rather to their own private good.

It is most likely that the Eruv erectors did not secure the permission from each of the private property owners to trespass on their land for their purposes, as they did not secure the permission of the township for use under their general public good right-of-way rights. Their having secured permission from Rockland Electric was therefore irrelevant.

Further, as respects the applicability of the US Constitutional right of freedom of religion to this issue, back in 1919 the US Supreme Court ruled in *Schenck v United States* that constitutional rights are not

unlimited, using the example that you cannot claim free speech in shouting "fire" in a crowded theater. Similarly, religious rights are not unlimited. You cannot claim to be of the Aztec/ Inca/ Mayan/ Toltec/ etc religion that requires human sacrifice, as a license allowing human sacrifices under the Constitution. Likewise, one should not be able to claim that their constitutional religious rights allow the superseding of others' private property rights.

David Rojek  
Mahwah, July 26

~~~~~  
David Rojek  
15 Hutton Drive  
Mahwah, NJ 07430  


Redacted -  
Telephone #



## Robert Hermansen

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**From:** Susan C Montemorano [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 28, 2017 1:57 PM  
**To:** William Laforet  
**Cc:** Robert Hermansen; Jonathan Wong; Janet Ariemma; George Ervin; David May; Steve Sbarra; James Wysocki  
**Subject:** The eruv debate/problem

Hi,  
I have been watching the eruv debate online on facebook and in news reports.

I am completely on your side (for many reasons) - but as I am sure you now have had time to review the issue and how other towns have fared - you may have to accept the evrus after all. And all that it will do to your neighborhood.

A friend of mine sent me this message and I hope it may be helpful to you:

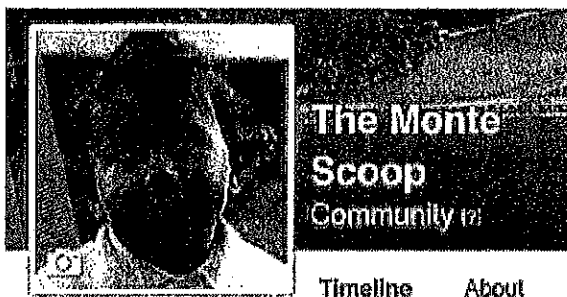
The only thing that can be done at this point is to sue the utility companies with the argument that they should not be allowing the rental of their poles, especially those located on private property to be used for religious symbols.

Every other argument appears to have made it through the courts and resulted in favorable rulings for the ervu community.

Hope this helps,

Susan C Montemorano, Pomona, NY

--



Redacted -  
Email Address.

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<https://www.facebook.com/TheMonteScoop/>



## Robert Hermansen

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**From:** John Roth  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2015 4:57 PM  
**To:** Janet Ariemma; Mary Amoroso; Lisa DiGiulio; Robert Hermansen; Steve Sbarra; Jonathan Wong  
**Subject:** Fwd: Miller Road - Orange & Rockland Utility Pole

TO: Town Council

The attached information from Chief Batelli is forwarded FYI.

Regards,  
John

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Chief James N. Batelli" <[JBatelli@mahwahpd.org](mailto:JBatelli@mahwahpd.org)>  
**Date:** July 27, 2015 at 2:29:35 PM EDT  
**To:** John Roth <[JRoth@mahwahwp.org](mailto:JRoth@mahwahwp.org)>  
**Subject:** FW: Miller Road - Orange & Rockland Utility Pole

There is a utility pole on Miller Road just up from the intersection of Franklin Turnpike that has several transformers on it. The pole is leaning significantly to one side and one of the transformers is leaking the cooling oil in a very small quantity. Orange and Rockland is on the scene with multiple trucks and crews as is a clean up company. With the expectant hot and humid weather forecast for the remainder of the week they want to try and set new poles and reposition the transformers as soon as possible. These transformers control a lot of power going up Miller and into Cragmere as well as Police Headquarters. It is a very large project and could take two days to complete. The work may result in sporadic outages although this will not be known until work is underway. Engineers are on site now trying to plan a new configuration.

If you have any questions please contact me.

Jim Batelli