

# **EXHIBIT V**

# Doblin: No 'knock-knocks' or Orthodox Jews in Mahwah

Alfred P. Doblin, Editorial Editor, @AlfredPDoblin Published 5:55 p.m. ET Sept. 15, 2017 | Updated 4:37 p.m. ET Sept. 17, 2017



(Photo: Tom Nobile/NorthJersey.com file photo)

Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Auntie.

Auntie who?

Anti-Semitism is never wise, and knock-knock jokes are rarely funny.

On Thursday, the Mahwah Township Council introduced a "no-knock" ordinance. It would create a registry of homeowners who do not want solicitors banging on their doors. Violators would be fined \$100 for a first-time offense. Other communities along the New York border have enacted similar ordinances. In Mahwah, it's a preemptive strike against the imagined invasion of Orthodox Jews from New York.

**Mahwah:** [Mahwah Council introduces 'no-knock' ordinance to limit soliciting \(/story/news/bergen/mahwah/2017/09/15/mahwah-council-introduces-no-knock-ordinance-limit-soliciting/668166001/\)](#)

**Doblin:** [Eruvs, ghettos, gated communities and a dancing ape \(/story/opinion/columnists/alfred-doblin/2017/08/25/doblin-eruv-ghettos-gated-communities-and-dancing-ape/602836001/\)](#)

It all began with some PVC piping on utility poles. To put it in its most offensive terms, it would follow the adage: First comes the eruv, then the Orthodox Jews. At least I hope that sounds offensive. Anti-Semitic. And just wrong on every level. But to some people in Mahwah, it does not.

What sounds wrong to them are the sounds of Orthodox children – from out of state no less – playing in their parks, and of real estate agents ringing doorbells street by street offering buckets of cash for homes sought by Orthodox families. Even worse than those sounds is someone saying "Lakewood," a community with a large Orthodox Jewish population.

Some Mahwah residents fear their town will be flooded by Orthodox couples who do not practice birth control, who send their many, many children to private schools, and who overrun school boards and town councils until zoning laws change, public schools collapse and property values tumble.

## Story continues after video

Back to the plastic pipes: They are the markings of an eruv, a symbolic enclosure that allows Orthodox Jews to perform certain activities outside of their homes on the Sabbath, like pushing baby strollers. Orthodox Jews from New York extended an eruv into Mahwah, and residents saw that as a sign that Orthodox would be moving soon to Mahwah.

The group sponsoring the eruv denies this. Doesn't matter. Reason does not apply anymore. Whether the town will be successful in having the eruv removed will depend on whether courts see the eruv ban as a matter of zoning or religious bias.

Supporters of the ban should at least have the smarts to be careful as to what they say in public, because the more they say at town meetings about why they want to support ordinances that would include banning climbing trees in public parks, the more they sound biased and, well, a little daft.

As Staff Writer Tom Nobile reported, at Thursday's meeting one Mahwah resident said, "They just took over the picnic area. I just think it's so unfair."

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In August, an out-of-state Orthodox Jew used a picnic table in Winter's Park to barbecue and there was fire damage. There have been reports of buses of Orthodox Jews coming to Mahwah parks to play.

**Doblin:** [An eruv connects Mahwah to Clybourne Park \(/story/opinion/columnists/alfred-doblin/2017/08/11/doblin-eruv-connects-mahwah-clybourne-park/557093001/\)](http://www.northjersey.com/story/opinion/columnists/alfred-doblin/2017/08/11/doblin-eruv-connects-mahwah-clybourne-park/557093001/)

**Eruv:** [Mahwah police seek two eruv vandalism suspects \(/story/news/bergen/mahwah/2017/09/05/mahwah-police-seek-vandalism-suspects/634004001/\)](http://www.northjersey.com/story/news/bergen/mahwah/2017/09/05/mahwah-police-seek-vandalism-suspects/634004001/)

As to the first issue, increase the fine for barbecuing on park tables. As to the latter, well ... public parks are meant for playing.

Another resident, Howard Bader, laid his cards right on the proverbial picnic table. He said, "Let's not turn Mahwah into Lakewood, New Jersey." Nobile reported that the statement was greeted with applause.

I do not doubt it was. But Mahwah residents and their elected governing body are creating a body of evidence that shows the fight against the eruv is not about zoning, but about Orthodox Jews. That a no-knock ordinance is not about door-to-door solicitations, but about Orthodox Jews. That a proposed ordinance that would ban nearly 40 new activities in the town's 10 parks, including the egregious tree climbing, is about Orthodox Jews.

According to the 2000 Census, there are over 24,000 residents of Mahwah. The 200-plus loud and strong ones who are clamoring against the Orthodox invasion at town meetings are hardly a substantial representation of the town. But it does not take many to make noise or bad public policy.

Mahwah residents should remain vigilant about zoning laws that restrict overbuilding on residential lots; they should turn out en masse for school and municipal elections to ensure that the governing bodies reflect community priorities. But they cannot put up a wall – real or imaginary – to block people from coming into their community. And the more they agitate in public about a perceived menace to their way of life, the more they become the real menace to everyone's way of life.

Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Madison.

Madison who?

Madison who wrote the Constitution, guaranteeing the free exercise of religion.

As I wrote, knock-knock jokes are rarely funny. But sometimes, they are very true.

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