

*Statement from the Borough of Woodcliff Lake and Valley Chabad on the approval of a settlement in Valley Chabad Inc. v. Borough of Woodcliff Lake et al.*

The Borough of Woodcliff Lake and Valley Chabad are pleased to announce that they have reached a settlement in *Valley Chabad Inc. v. Borough of Woodcliff Lake et al.*, Civil Action No. 2:16-cv-8087 (JLL) (JAD). This settlement puts an end to the expensive and protracted legal proceedings that negatively impact Woodcliff Lake taxpayers and marks the beginning of a new chapter for the Borough and Valley Chabad.

We in Woodcliff Lake pride ourselves on being a welcoming community. At the heart of this voluntary settlement is our commitment to this principle by both the Borough of Woodcliff Lake and Valley Chabad.

The Borough of Woodcliff Lake and Valley Chabad look forward to continuing a relationship that has spanned more than 20 years. True to their mission, Valley Chabad has long created “light for the sake of creating light, just by doing good for the sake of doing good,” and the Borough of Woodcliff Lake, always a willing home and partner, has provided space and support. We are all better off when we work together.

The Borough’s goal is and always has been to engage in sound planning, common sense development, and beneficial environmental practices while fully respecting the constitutional right of religious freedom. The voluntary settlement with Valley Chabad strikes this important balance and provides us with a path forward unencumbered by costly legal action.

Chabad houses strive to “open the hearts of others” and we are hopeful that this voluntary settlement does that right here in Woodcliff Lake so that we can continue to be a model community in which to live and raise a family.

"On behalf of the entire Valley Chabad community, we are humbly grateful to have reached this settlement with Woodcliff Lake and we thank G-D for all the blessings," Rabbi Dov Drizin said following the vote. "We are looking forward to a beautiful future in Woodcliff Lake."

“Tonight’s vote comes after more than two years of careful deliberation and consideration, and is one that has been thoroughly considered,” Mayor Carlos Rendo said. “It also sets Woodcliff Lake on a positive path forward, protects our taxpayers, and allows us to build upon what has traditionally been an important relationship with our neighbors at Valley Chabad.”