



# VILLAGE OF GREAT NECK

61 BAKER HILL ROAD, GREAT NECK, N.Y. 11023

(516) 482-0019 FAX: (516) 482-2606

RALPH J. KREITZMAN  
MAYOR

September 17, 2009

Dear Residents:

The Westboro Baptist Church recently applied for a permit to "conduct religious demonstrations" at three locations in our Village on Friday, September 25 from 2:25 - 2:50 pm and from 6:00 - 6:30 pm and at other locations on the Great Neck Peninsula on that day.

We met and consulted with the Nassau County Police, representatives of the directly impacted temples and school, representatives of other affected municipalities, temples, and schools, our counsel and others. Unfortunately, we were advised that we must issue the permit and can only impose "reasonable" restrictions. After further coordination, our Board of Trustees issued a public assembly permit to the Church. It is summarized on the attached page and a complete copy is available by request at Village Hall or to [info@greatneckvillage.org](mailto:info@greatneckvillage.org) or 482-0019.

There is a website attributed to the Westboro Baptist Church entitled [godhatesfags.com](http://godhatesfags.com). On the website are photographs of their signs with sayings including, "God Hates America", "God Hates Fags", "Thank God for Dead Soldiers", "Pope in Hell", "God Hates Israel" and "The Jews Killed Jesus".

We have been told that they have been law abiding and non-violent in the past. Their signs, however, antagonize and incite. They have told the police that they always have at least one camcorder with their group to document their demonstrations. We also have been told that they like to bring lawsuits.

Based upon all that I have heard, I personally find their positions totally reprehensible and repulsive and contrary to the values of our residents, schools and houses of worship and the respect they deserve.

If you believe that you will find the demonstration as offensive as I do, I suggest that you not place yourself in a position that you may feel compelled to respond. It is not to anyone's advantage to engage in activity that could become violent or result in needless and expensive litigation. To do so is exactly what they appear to want.

The advice we have received at this date, with which I fully concur, is to try to have everyone **avoid and ignore the demonstrators.**

We continue to work closely with the police, school and temples, and the police will be present at all their demonstrations.

Sincerely yours,

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC ASSEMBLY PERMIT  
ISSUED BY THE VILLAGE OF GREAT NECK TO  
WESTBORO BAPTIST CHURCH

Date:	<b>Friday, September 25, 2009</b>
Times and Locations:	<b>2:25 - 2:50 pm.</b> On the sidewalk across from <b>Great Neck North High School</b> on Polo Road, south of it's intersection with Nirvana Avenue, from 10 feet south of the stop sign for 75 feet
	<b>6:00 - 6:30 pm</b> - On the sidewalk in front of <b>Temple Beth-El</b> on Old Mill Road, from 20 feet from the intersection with Middle Neck Road for 75 feet
	<b>6:00 - 6:30 pm</b> - On the sidewalk across the street from <b>Great Neck Synagogue</b> on Old Mill Road, from 20 feet from the intersection with Polo Road for 75 feet
Further Conditions:	No violation of Village noise ordinance
	No more than 10 people at any location.
	No more than one vehicle, legally parked.
	Police have the right to relocate the areas in the interest of public safety

OTHER LOCATIONS ON THE PENINSULA  
THAT WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THE WESTBORO BAPTIST CHURCH  
PLANS TO CONDUCT DEMONSTRATIONS

<b>Chabad of Great Neck</b> 400 East Shore Road	<b>11:45 am- 12:15 pm</b>
<b>North Shore Hebrew Academy</b> 400 North Service Road	<b>1:30 - 2:10 pm</b>
Former offices of LI Jewish World <b>115 Middle Neck Road</b>	<b>2:25 - 2:50 pm</b>
<b>Temple Israel of Great Neck</b> 108 Old Mill Road	<b>6:00 - 6:30 pm</b>