

MWIA BOARD STATEMENT TO THE COMMUNITY REGARDING THE APPEAL OF THE MESIVTA SHAAREI CHAIM SCHOOL FOR CONDITIONAL USE OF 5415 GREENSPRING AVENUE

The MWIA Board voted on Thursday night, 10/10/2024, to oppose the appeal of the Mesivta Shaarei Chaim School for conditional use of 5415 Greenspring Avenue.

This was done after much thoughtful discussion and deliberation.

In order to address the community's concerns regarding the school's impact on the neighborhood, we have been working for several months to negotiate a potential Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the MWIA and the school, with guidance from our legal counsel.

Unfortunately, the final iteration of the MOU (provided to the board last week) set forth conditions substantially different from the initial letter of introduction that the school presented to the community in May. The changes included significantly increased enrollment, expanding operating hours to 7 days a week, the potential of boarding students and opening the facility to community usage for worship services and the erosion of green space at the site.

Therefore, the MWIA board made the decision to oppose the school's appeal for conditional use. We will present testimony in opposition to the school's appeal at the BMZA hearing on Tuesday, October 15.

The MWIA is open to ongoing conversation with the school in an effort to come to more agreeable terms if they delay their appeal to the BMZA at a later date.

Any individual neighbor is welcome to present their own testimony in support or opposition at the hearing. In-person testimony carries the greatest weight. Here is a [link](#) to the BMZA.