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**MEDIA RELEASE  
JUNE 24, 2010**

**Settlement Reached between Bikur Cholim and Village of Suffern, New York**

Bikur Cholim (literally, “to visit the sick”), a small not-for-profit religious organization that provides Orthodox Jews with a temporary home and opportunity for prayer during the Sabbath and approximately ten annual religious holidays while staying near family members admitted to Good Samaritan Hospital, and the Village of Suffern, New York, have reached a settlement that was signed by U.S. Senior District Judge Warren W. Eginton and filed with the Court on June 17th. The Court decided on a motion for partial summary judgment that the use of the Shabbos House constituted a religious use, but that a factual issue existed as to whether a substantial burden on the exercise of religion existed.

Bikur Cholim filed suit against the Village in federal district court on December 23, 2005. The Complaint charged violations of the U.S. and New York Constitutions and the federal Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act of 2000 (“RLUIPA”) against the Village. The United States Department of Justice filed a companion suit against the Village, which was also settled by consent decree.

The Consent Decree permits Bikur Cholim to continue operating at its current location and serve up to 14 visitors on the Sabbath and other Holy Days. Bikur Cholim will also apply for site plan approval with the Village Planning Board and will comply with all other State and local laws. The Village did not acknowledge any wrongdoing in settling the cases.

RLUIPA was passed by Congress five years ago to prevent discrimination, exclusion and substantial burdens on religious land uses. Bikur Cholim is represented in this lawsuit by Paul Savad, a Nanuet, New York based litigator and trial lawyer with over forty years experience in the New York metropolitan area, and Storzer & Greene, P.L.L.C., a Washington- and New York-based law firm dedicated to representing the rights of religious institutions and individuals nationwide. The Village of Suffern was represented by Terry Rice, an experienced land use litigator.

Copies of the Consent Decrees are available upon request.

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