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**For immediate release**

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**Bridgewater Board of Adjustment Adopt Resolution Permitting Temple Expansion**  
*Cultural center, priest housing will be permitted under plan*

On April 28, 2009, the Township of Bridgewater Zoning Board of Adjustment adopted a Resolution granting variances and site plan approval to expand the facilities of the Hindu Temple and Cultural Center of USA, including a new 20,500 square foot cultural center, temple expansion and additional priest housing.

“This is an important day for religious freedom,” said Temple attorney Roman P. Storzer. “The efforts of both the Temple and the Township have led to a result that works for everyone. Our clients have long awaited this moment to serve their community.”

The Temple, represented by Storzer & Greene, P.L.L.C. and Frank J. Petrino, of Sterns & Weinroth in Trenton, New Jersey, first applied for the variance in early 2004 in order to accommodate its growing need for a cultural center that could house various religious activities, including Hindu rites, Vedic heritage classes, religious education, Hindu dance and music activities, teaching the Sanskrit language, and more. After the Temple had been repeatedly turned down, it filed a lawsuit in the federal district court for the District of New Jersey in 2007, charging violations of the U.S. and New Jersey Constitutions and the federal Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act of 2000 (“RLUIPA”).

RLUIPA was passed by Congress nine years ago to prevent discrimination against churches in land use applications, and forbids government action that “imposes a substantial burden on the religious exercise of a person, including a religious assembly or institution, unless the government demonstrates that imposition of the burden on that person, assembly, or institution is in furtherance of a compelling governmental interest, and is the least restrictive means of furthering that compelling interest.”

The attorneys of Storzer and Greene, P.L.L.C. have represented scores of religious organizations in land use conflicts across the Nation. Mr. Storzer has been described by the Religion Newswriters Association as “one of the country’s most experienced litigators” in religious land use law, and has successfully represented Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Native American, Sikh and other faith groups in RLUIPA and First Amendment matters.