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Pomona, Tartikov developer clash before federal judge

BY AKIKO MATSUDA • AMATSUDA@LOHUD.COM • MAY 21, 2009

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Tartikov, being nonaccredited, would need the exemption to submit its plans. But the village wouldn't grant the exemption. Tartikov's attorneys have said that because of the programs it offered, the rabbinical college cannot be accredited.

Karas asked what Tartikov could do to submit its plan without accreditation.

Pomona Village Attorney Doris Ulman said that the developer could petition for a zone change.

Paul Savad, a Nanuet lawyer representing Tartikov, told Karas that applying for a zone change would give the village a tool to further delay the process, discouraging the developer from proceeding.

Roman P. Storzer, attorney for the developer, told the judge that the village's actions have been discriminatory against Hasidic Jewish students, who simply wish to enjoy their rights to [study](#).

Savad also told the judge that the developer wanted a level playing field, which would let Tartikov submit the plan.

Hamilton told the judge that to establish a discrimination case, the developer should discuss based on facts, not ideas.

At the end of the hearing, Karas spoke to attorneys and to people sitting in the back, including people from the Hasidic Jewish community and Pomona village officials.

"I recognize that this is a very important case for both of you," Karas said. "I do the best I can."

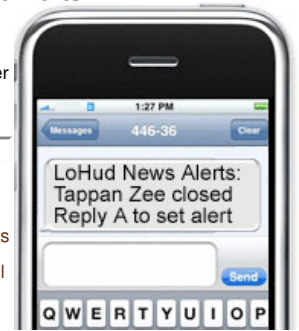
It will be the judge's discretion when to render his opinion on the motion to dismiss.

Hamilton said she would expect Karas to come back with his opinion in six to 12 months.

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