

September 3, 1975

Mr. Joseph Schiff  
West Side Jewish Community Council  
33 West 60th Street  
New York, New York 10023

Dear Joe:

I have been trying to reach you for some time now, but you were out on vacation. I am therefore writing you, in the hope that you can attend to this matter immediately upon your return.

As you are aware from the letter I sent you in the very early part of the Summer, we are going to have some real problems concerning the Mikvah on West 78th Street. The organization known as "Bridge" has applied to lease the property of the Morenu Institute for its activities. As I mentioned, I am by no means opposed to the Bridge and its work, and in fact heartily support it. However, it is most acutely unfortunate that they chose the premises right next to the Mikvah, which by all means threatens to destroy the Mikvah on the West Side.

I have been in touch with a number of authorities, and I shall today be in touch with Mrs. Liss of the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene.

I am informed that the only truly effective way of preventing this problem from growing any larger, is by working through the Community Planning Board, number seven, ~~which~~ Mr. Robert Kagan is chairman. If we can exert enough influence at the Planning Board, and they do not permit the organization to rent the premises next to the Mikvah, there will be no problem.



I feel this is the first great issue that the West Side Jewish Community Council can act upon in a clear and decisive manner, for the benefit of the rest of the community. Please, Joe, do get to work on this as soon as possible and keep me informed.

All my best wishes for a very happy and successful new year.

Cordially yours,

RABBI NORMAN LAMM

NL:gf

CC: Charles Bendheim