

VOS IZ NEIAS: (Yiddish: "What's News")

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Wednesday, November 28, 2007

Montreal, Canada - Jews Abuse Municipal Rules, Resident in Outremont Tells Commission

Montreal, Canada - Hasidic Jews who live in Outremont are relentless in their flouting of municipal regulations but escape with impunity, the Bouchard-Taylor commission heard today.

Illegally built synagogues and schools, inter-city school buses circulating on residential streets, unpaid parking tickets, those are some of the things the ultra-orthodox Jewish sect gets away with, said Hutchison St. resident Pierre Lacerte.

On behalf of 158 Outremont residents, Lacerte submitted a 90-page illustrated brief to the reasonable accommodation commission detailing "abuses" by Jews that people who live in the neighbourhood have seen over the years. [Gazette]

posted by Shlomah Shamos @ [11/28/2007 04:31:00 PM](#) 

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A Hasidic community spokesperson dismissed the accusations, calling them an example of "racism, anti-semitism, call it what you want."

"It's an old fight," said Alex Werzberger, president of the Coalition of Outremont Hasidic Organizations. The parking issue, for one, is exaggerated, he said. The borough allows Jews to park against regulations only about seven or eight days a year - during Jewish high holidays. "It's not impunity," he said.

Lacerte, who has lived in Outremont since 1985, is being sued for defamation by prominent Hasidic real estate developer Michael Rosenberg for circulating a petition accusing Rosenberg of breaking municipal bylaws and demands that he step down from the city of Montreal's consultative committee on intercommunity relations.

To journalists, Lacerte enumerated several acts of vandalism and intimidation that he said took place against people who complain about Hasidic Jews.

For example, he claimed, one business displayed in its front window a poster of smiling men and women in bathing suits running on a beach. Lacerte said its owner was harassed in person and by phone by a Hasidic man who said it was an affront to his morals. Other people have had the side-mirrors on their cars ripped off, he added.

Werzberger said he has never heard of such incidents. Lacerte said he has instigated businesses by individuals, but "it's not generalized...I've even had my side-mirror ripped off my Jaguar, and I don't think it was done by a Jew."