



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Beloved Camp Jacobson Forced to Close for the 2023 Season

Following a legal dispute with the Village of Brookville, the camp - run by Sid Jacobson JCC since 2009 – is not able to offer a summer experience for hundreds of area children next year

East Hills, NY – After a years-long legal battle with the Village of Brookville, Camp Jacobson – the beloved summer camp where thousands of Long Island children have made memories and friendships since 2009 – has been forced to close its doors because of an order by the Village of Brookville, ending the hopes of more than 400 families for the 2023 summer camp season.

The closure is due to what the Village claims are zoning issues.

With the reluctant decision to close, hundreds of families previously planning to send their children back for the summer of 2023 will need to seek out alternatives. Notice was sent out immediately by **Sid Jacobson JCC Executive Director David Black** and **Board President David Levy** in a September 13th email, giving families ample time to select a new camp experience properly.

The email from **Black** and **Levy** read in part, “... We are confounded and deeply disturbed by this turn of events. Sid Jacobson JCC exists to create and foster community by enhancing the lives of individuals and families through hundreds of programs. Camp Jacobson has served thousands of children, providing a dynamic summer experience steeped in Jewish principles, practices, and values and providing jobs to hundreds of dedicated people each year who provide your children with incredible summers. We disagree with the rationale behind the decisions of the village and the courts. Our hearts are heavy at this moment, but our intent is to rise again. In the interim, we will alert you to opportunities for you and your children to connect with us as we sort through our own options...”

In 2014, Camp Jacobson personnel requested to widen the drive to the camp and other safety measures, including adding more classrooms and bathrooms on the campus. The village denied those requests as part of the camp’s multimillion-dollar master plan saying

the site was improperly used under its zoning regulations and declaring the camp not Jewish enough to warrant protections under the law.

Sid Jacobson JCC fought those assertions in court. However, the court sided with the village's assertion that the camp was primarily recreational. The village also contended that neighbors were concerned about increased traffic and noise, yet the master plan had numerous noise abatement and traffic control plans to address those matters.

[Area parents are incensed](#) and the village has yet to explain why they would not sit down with the JCC to resolve its issues. JCC leadership remains aggrieved and has said that all legal options are on the table, but would ideally like to resolve the matter face to face with village trustees.

About Sid Jacobson JCC

[Sid Jacobson Jewish Community Center](#), the only full-service JCC on Long Island's North Shore, provides a full range of cutting-edge recreational, health, fitness, educational, cultural arts, and social services programs to East Hills and the surrounding community. Sid Jacobson JCC promotes Jewish identity and provides a comprehensive program based on Jewish values, traditions, heritage, and culture and is committed to enriching the lives of all individuals and families in its community.

Sid Jacobson JCC is a beneficiary agency of the UJA Federation of New York.

www.sjcc.org