



January 5, 2023

To: Shearith Israel Touro Affiliates and All Worshippers at the Touro Synagogue

From: Congregation Shearith Israel

Dear friends,

We wish we had a more upbeat note to kick off the new year. Unfortunately, the memorandum of use that Jim Herstoff and Lou Solomon worked so hard on was rejected by CJI's Board. We are terribly disappointed as we viewed this as the only hope for moving forward together constructively.

We now appeal to you, the members and worshipers of CJI, to urge the decision-makers at CJI to abandon revolution and instead opt for evolution. We hope that if enough local voices speak out in favor of reason and compromise, CJI will be able to continue to worship at the Touro Synagogue for years to come while Shearith Israel can fulfill its role as stewards of this important historic institution. This is not about whether worshippers will be welcome at Touro Synagogue. They will be. But this was our last hope of joining with CJI in this venture.

Shabbat Shalom and best wishes for a peaceful 2023.