



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 27, 2013

Shapiro Urges Prime Minister Netanyahu to Keep Israeli Consulate in Philadelphia Open

Norristown, PA (November 27, 2013) – Josh Shapiro, chairman of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners, is urging Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to keep the Israeli Consulate in Philadelphia open. Recently, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced it is considering closing the consulate.

In a letter dated November 26, 2013, Shapiro wrote that the consulate “is critical to the continuance of the longstanding relationship between the people of Israel and our region.” Shapiro went on to say that the consulate “is of vital importance to our respective nations’ common interests and its continued operation will serve to enhance the mutually beneficial economic and business connection between Israel and our region in Southeastern Pennsylvania.”

In the letter, Shapiro references Netanyahu’s upbringing in Montgomery County during which the future Prime Minister graduated from Cheltenham High School. “The Greater Philadelphia region is an economic hub for Israel, processing 25 percent of Israel’s nearly \$20 billion in exports to the United States each year,” Shapiro wrote, adding that the presence of the Israeli Consulate in Philadelphia is integral in that process.

Shapiro is active in many Jewish and pro-Israel organizations in the area. He has traveled to Israel six times, and has met Netanyahu twice.



JOSHUA D. SHAPIRO
CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

November 26, 2013

The Honorable Benjamin Netanyahu
Office of the Prime Minister
3 Kaplan Street
Hakiryia, Jerusalem 91950, Israel

Dear Prime Minister Netanyahu:

I understand that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel is considering closing its Consulate in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I write to respectfully ask that you keep the Consulate open, which is critical to the continuance of the longstanding relationship between the people of Israel and our region.

The Israeli Consulate is of vital importance to our respective nations' common interests and its continued operation will serve to enhance the mutually beneficial economic and business connection between Israel and our region in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

As you know from your upbringing in Montgomery County, our region plays a meaningful role in accelerating U.S. – Israel business development, advocating pro-Israeli causes, and strengthening cultural, political and philanthropic ties. The Greater Philadelphia region is an economic hub for Israel, processing 25 percent of Israel's nearly \$20 billion in exports to the United States each year. The presence of the Consulate is integral in this process.

I respectfully ask that you keep the Consulate in Philadelphia open and thank you for your consideration of my request.

All the best,



JOSHUA D. SHAPIRO