

For over 50 years, the Young Israel of West Hartford (YIWH) has been a staple in the diverse cultural fabric that makes West Hartford, serving families and individuals, youth to seniors and everyone in between. The YIWH is the fastest growing synagogue in the Greater Hartford region – more than doubling its membership in the past 5 years. We pride ourselves on being conscientious community partners – developing relationships with and supporting the West Hartford Police Department, West Hartford Fire Department and West Hartford Emergency Services Operations.

As a result of our continued growth, our current facilities no longer meet our needs, putting severe limitations on our ability to operate and function. In a first step to alleviate this challenge, we aim to put a temporary 12'x60' portable two room trailer to support our worship, programming and storage needs.

The trailer is towards the rear of the property, at the northmost point of our parking lot – aesthetically shielded from Albany Ave and surrounding side streets. The majority of the unit rests on the grass beyond our parking lot, leaving minimal parking interference. We also anticipate no additional traffic or parking due to this extra space as our religious practice prohibits the use of cars on our Sabbath and holy days – when our space is primarily utilized.

We also are working towards more long-term solutions to our space constraints. We have been engaging with an architect for several years to draft expansion plans of our current facility. Throughout this process, we have been in touch with the Town of West Hartford Planning and Zoning department, the Fire Marshal's office and the West Hartford Police Department. We have always felt it was imperative to partner with these agencies while in the midst of developing our plans. Of course, any permanent expansion requires significant resources, significant time and significant planning. Our hope is that this can be a temporary solution to our space challenges while enabling us to still fulfill our critical mission and plan for a more permanent future.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our special use permit application. We look forward to our continued partnership and working with the Town of West Hartford.

