



February 26, 2021

To the Longwood Foundation:

On behalf of the entire University of Delaware, I wish to express our strong support of the application by Chabad of UD for a capital grant from the Longwood Foundation to help rebuild the Chabad Center for Jewish Life, which was destroyed by arson in August.

The Chabad Center has long provided a place of respite and renewal for UD's Jewish students, and it has been truly devastating to our community to lose this important resource, especially as we continue to cope with the far-reaching effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The loss of the Chabad Center was traumatic to thousands of Blue Hens here and around the world, no matter their religious beliefs, who reached out to support the effort to rebuild the "Little Blue House." This was truly a *community* center in the purest sense of the word.

Rabbi Avremel Vogel and Shulie Vogel, co-directors of Chabad Center, have a bold and inspiring vision to build a larger Chabad House that would better serve UD's Jewish community. As the University seeks to grow the diversity of our student population, modern and vibrant resources are essential for students of all backgrounds to feel like they have a home away from home at UD. The new Chabad House is exactly the kind of inclusive and forward-looking project that is desperately needed as our Jewish students and the whole University community rebound from the pandemic.

I appreciate the opportunity to voice the University of Delaware's support for this capital project, and I urge you to approve their application for a grant from the Longwood Foundation to make this dream a reality for our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Dennis Assanis'.

Dennis Assanis  
President