

From: [Moshe Scheiner](#)
To: [Paul Castro](#); [Wayne Bergman](#); [Kelly Churney](#)
Subject: Letter of Support for The Colony Hotel
Date: Thursday, October 08, 2020 7:30:08 PM

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To the Honorable Palm Beach Town Council:

Please allow me to take a moment and update you on my interactions with The Colony as it relates to my daughter's wedding back on the late afternoon of June 8, 2020 and my strong support for their application for Special Exemption.

Back in early March, we approached The Colony about hosting our daughter's wedding. After some back and forth on details, the onset of Covid 19 hit the world and our community. The Scheiner family investigated many different options but in the end, we decided to postpone the celebration until we could find some calmer waters during the pandemic.

In mid-May, the County and Town unveiled guidelines for gatherings that allowed events to take place outdoors, as long as social distancing, masks and temperatures checks were followed. Based on the new regulations, our family again approached The Colony to determine if they could host my daughters simcha using their outdoor spaces to ensure both social distancing, with masks in the outdoor use and accommodations for the event.

At that time, The Colony was completing the installation of the new outdoor East Garden, so we decided to reduce our invite list to just family and confirmed the event. Within two weeks of signing with The Colony we confirmed a Kosher Caterer, florist, musicians, decorators and the limited invited guests to attend this special event.

The timeline of the event had guests arriving at 5 pm, including an outdoor cocktail reception, wedding ceremony in the Garden at 5:30 to 6:15 (Jewish wedding ceremonies take approximately forty five) then return to the outdoor pool areas for a celebration that ended around 10 pm. The event went off perfectly, with everyone enjoying the wedding ceremony and celebration and The Colony hospitality.

After the event was over, we learned that the ceremony in the Garden, while early in the evening, may have run a bit over the decibel line from the ceremony celebration music. While we in no way intended to violate any town ordinances, The Colony did their best to accommodate both the event and their neighbors while ensuring that the essence of the celebration was realized. Looking back, the entire band we hired was placed in the Garden to accompany the ceremony. Hindsight would suggest, we may have been a bit loud during this aspect of the celebration and for that, the Scheiner family recognizes the concerns the extra sound during the wedding celebration may have negatively impacted our town neighbors.

It should be noted that The Colony is a community stalwart that has been dedicated to serving the Palm Beach community. Our Synagogue hosted our annual Gala there in February of this year as well as many other events over the past years. It has come to my attention that The Colony is now going before the Town Board for a Special Exception for event use of this unique and community serving space. I humbly request that the town council members support this request. This space along with the entire Colony environment has been serving the Palm Beach community and my congregants for decades. This new outdoor space is particularly vital as it is safe and spacious and deserves your approval so that community members can host special celebrations right here in our own town.

Please allow The Colony to receive the special exemption so that we can continue to have a hotel, business and special event spaces that caters to the community.

Please feel free to contact me directly to help support their application.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Moshe Scheiner