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ה"ח מ"ו  
June 6 2013

Dear Rabbi Goldin and Rabbi Dratch,

It was a pleasure to meet with you the other day.

As we discussed, we all share a concern in protecting children in our community from sexual or physical abuse. Though some have misunderstood my position, I completely agree that, given firsthand knowledge or credible evidence of child abuse or molestation, one should definitely go to the authorities. This is not only a theoretical position that I hold, but also one that I have personally implemented.

To cite one occasion, in Brooklyn several years ago a claim was made against a driver who transported children to a playgroup operated by his wife. There was reasonable cause for suspicion — the child would wake up crying in the middle of the night and described the abuse — and I advised the parents to report the matter to the police. As it turned out, when the police investigated they felt there was not enough actionable evidence to pursue a case. Nonetheless, I took the step of advising parents to not enroll their children in the playgroup and it ultimately closed down.

Sincerely yours,

*Rabbi Yisroel Belsky*

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