



UNITED STATES COMMISSION
FOR THE PRESERVATION OF AMERICA'S HERITAGE ABROAD

September 20, 2011

VIA REGULAR MAIL AND E-MAIL

Hon. Volodymyr Groysman
Mayor
Vinnytsia City Counsel
Soborna Street, 59
Vinnytsia, 21100, Ukraine

Our Recent Meeting

Dear Mayor Groysman:

I wish to extend my personal gratitude to you for your courtesy and efforts in connection with the issue of the Jewish cemetery in Vinnytsia. I appreciate that you were able to convene a meeting on short notice and have available so many deputy mayors and administrative department heads¹. You were gracious enough to allow us extended time in your conference room, and your final personal decision to establish a Steering Committee was a brilliant solution to a very difficult problem. Please accept my heartfelt thanks for your energy, creativity and dedication to solving this problem for now and the future. I enjoyed your "L'Chaim" at the end of the meeting as well.

Pursuant to the outcome of the meeting, I am advised that detailed proposed specifications for the temporary fence will be submitted to your administration in the immediate future. Once it is approved, the funds have already been allocated to construct it as soon as possible. This will help avoid further degradation or inappropriate use of the area. When several of the meeting participants went to view the area after the meeting (including one of the city officials), we saw several areas where human remains were visible, as well as a number of cultivated agricultural patches that appeared to be in current use and had vegetables growing or harvested. Certainly the temporary fence will discourage this entirely inappropriate use of the cemetery grounds.

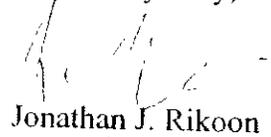
¹ I wonder whether you can have an assistant respond to this letter by e-mail with the names and titles or positions of the city administrative officials who were in attendance at our meeting.

September 20, 2011

We also appreciate your comments and the advice of your administration on the best path to a more permanent solution regarding the status of the cemetery. I look forward to hearing how that progresses as the Steering Committee works closely with your administration to achieve the goals we all desire.

May we continue to cooperate in friendship.

Yours very truly,



Jonathan J. Rikoon
Member of the Commission

cc: Chief Rabbi of Ukraine Yakov Dov Bleich
Chief Rabbi of Vinnitsa Shaul Horovitz
Rabbi David Niederman, Asra Kadisha
Rabbi Chizki Kalmonowitz, Asra Kadisha
Colin Cleary, Counselor for Political Affairs, U.S. Embassy to Ukraine
Warren Miller, Chairman, U.S. Commission for the Preservation of
America's Heritage Abroad
Jeffrey Farrow, Executive Director, U.S. Commission for the Preservation of
America's Heritage Abroad