

## **Information on Zerach "Scott" Brown #1**

Va'ad HaRabanim of Greater Seattle - June 9, 2005

Letter #1

<http://www.seattlevaad.org/>

June 7, 2005

Va'ad Statement Regarding Case of Zerach "Scott" Brown

The Rabbis of the Va'ad of Greater Seattle regret to inform you that information has come before us to the effect that Mr. Zerach "Scott" Brown was arrested in 1999 in Mountandale, NY on charges relating to sexually improper conduct in respect to minors. Mr. Brown pled guilty at that time to a misdemeanor charge of providing alcohol to minors and was on probation thereafter. A condition of the probation was that he seek counseling for pedophilic tendencies. Zerach Brown has confirmed the foregoing information.

In connection with the matter involving Zerach Brown, Jacob Lunon appeared before the Va'ad on June 6, 2005, and made a statement in writing, which Mr. Lunon agreed the Va'ad might make public as necessary to protect the community. The following excerpt, which substantiates in part the statement by Zerach Brown, is from Mr. Lunon's written statement:

"1) Prior to coming to Seattle in July of 2004, Mr. [Zerach] Brown confided with Mr. Lunon that during a period [prior thereto]... Mr. Brown went into the woods and [engaged in certain conduct not in accordance with Halacha, but not involving another person], where he was seen by a member of the local Jewish community who reported the incident to the rabbis of the community. 2) Also, prior to coming to Seattle, Mr. Brown related to Mr. Lunon that he had been previously arrested for and convicted of providing alcohol to a minor. Mr. Brown related that he was sent to therapy for this..."

## **Information on Zerach Brown #2**

Va'ad HaRabanim of Greater Seattle - June 9, 2005

Letter #2

<http://www.seattlevaad.org/>

June 9, 2005

Further communication from the Rabbis of the Va'ad HaRabanim of Greater Seattle regarding the case of Zerach "Scott" Brown:

In the last day, since our announcement regarding Zerach "Scott" Brown was disseminated, we have received welcome input from a number of community members. Generally people have recognized that the Va'ad has tried to advise the community quickly of an issue we regard as very serious, and that the text of our communication was an attempt to balance clarity and discretion. In a few cases, however, there was some confusion about the import of our message. We apologize for any lack of clarity, and issue the following supplemental statement in order to communicate our very high level of concern. The first paragraph of our prior release was authorized by Zerach Brown; the following statement is not so authorized.

Rabbis of the Va'ad received unambiguous testimony from Zerach Brown that he has previously molested children. Zerach Brown denied having engaged in any such activity in Seattle. The undersigned Rabbis express no opinion as to Zerach Brown's truthfulness in connection with the second sentence of this paragraph. If anyone is concerned about his or her child having been alone with Zerach Brown, he or she may wish to seek appropriate professional guidance in this very serious matter.

Rabbi Simon Benzaquen, Rabbi Salamon Cohen-Scali, Rabbi Mordechai Farkash, Rabbi William Greenberg, Rabbi Moshe Kletenik, Rabbi Yechezkel Kornfeld, Rabbi Sholom Ber Levitin.