

Caruso Provides Space for Chabad Meetings

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Chabad Jewish Community Center announced Caruso Affiliated has provided the addition of a new meeting space for the organization in the Village, beginning Thursday, Jan. 29.

In addition to services held at the Chabad Campus on Sunset and Los Liones Drive, simultaneous services will now be held in the former U.S. Bank building, adjacent to the Mobil gas station at Sunset and Swarthmore Ave.

The space will be used for study and prayer group meetings, according to Rabbi Zushe Cunin.

"Mr. Caruso was generous enough to allow us to be here until he actualizes his plan and he needs it. We're only there because of his benevolence and generosity," Rabbi Cunin said. "This is of great benefit to us, being able to provide services to the community and continuing to spread love and light. [Our meetings] are warm and welcoming and we are open and willing to share with anyone."

Rabbi Cunin said that he was not at liberty to discuss the terms of the arrangement, citing his desire to respect Caruso's privacy.

"We've always known Mr. Caruso to be someone who supported this community and community organizations, even before he became involved with [the Swarthmore development] project," Rabbi Cunin said. "We've always known him to be someone to do the right thing."

Previously, Chabad was meeting in space provided by Palisadian Steve Bellamy, who operates the Palisades Tennis



Rabbi Zushi Cunin exits the former US Bank building where Chabad will be holding weekly meetings courtesy of developer Rick Caruso.

Rich Schmitt/Staff Photographer

Center and is the CEO of the Ski Channel and the Surf Channel. Rabbi Cunin said he then had the "opportunity and blessing to speak to Mr. Caruso" who made the U.S. Bank building available to them.

Before creating their 2.5-acre campus at the location on Sunset and Los Liones, which houses a preschool and provides special needs care as well as programming for adults and seniors, Chabad was formerly located on Monument and Sunset.

"We've been part of the community for 20 years and we're a very active community center," Rabbi Cunin said. "We've been very fortunate to have partners, friends and community members like Steve Bellamy and Mr. Caruso. Even though they aren't of the Jewish faith, they have been so supportive and we are very grateful."