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2 Nissan 5771

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RCV STATEMENT For Immediate Release

It has been brought to the attention of the Rabbinical Council of Victoria (RCV) that, despite it having expressed grave concerns over the availability of soft “*laffa*”-style *matza* before Pesach last year, this product has once again become available to the public for purchase and consumption. The RCV therefore wishes to reiterate its stance on this matter and, following consultation with local *kashrus* experts, strongly recommends against the consumption or ownership of these *matzos* during Pesach. All member rabbis of the RCV have been appraised of the *halachic* issues involved. Should consumers seek further information we urge them to consult their *rov* or *kashrus* authority as a matter of priority.

Additionally, please be advised that the supplier of these *matzos* has stated on his website that Rav Yosef Shalom Elyashiv שליט"א, a leading *halachic* authority in Israel, inspected these *matzos* and stated that *matzos* of this nature would be perfectly kosher for Pesach for Jews of all backgrounds and traditions. Rav Elyashiv was subsequently approached about this matter and has expressly requested that the following statement be publicized in his name:

אסור לתת הכשר למצות רכות לקהילות אשכנז כי זו פירצה. ביהדות אשכנז אין על זה מסורת ואף פעם לא נהגו לאפשר אכילת מצות רכות.

(Translation): “It is forbidden to give a *hechsher* to soft *matzos* for Ashkenazi communities because this is a breach (of tradition). There is no tradition among Ashkenazi Jewry (to consume soft *matzos*) and they have never allowed the eating of soft *matzos*.”

The above statement by Rav Elyashiv relates to the issue of breaking a long-standing tradition in a community, which is quite apart from the *halachic* problems associated with the production of such *matzos*.

Wishing the community a kosher and joyous Pesach,

Rabbinical Council of Victoria

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