

Words from the Chief Rabbi on the Topic

Regarding the question of many on the topic of carrying from one domain to another domain in our city of Brooklyn; that to their great astonishment, I have instructed that one may rely on the Erub without any doubt to carry when walking through the streets of this city, under the clear and decisive responsa of the Rabbi, the Rishon Lesion, Hacham Ovadya Yosef in his work Yabiah Omer (Orah Hayim Siman 33). Yet, there are still certain individuals, who persist in a derogatory manner, raising their voices in public, with a lack of manners and respect that we are brazenly carrying on Shabbat.

And when we respond to the ruffians that we are carrying based on the halakha and the instruction mentioned above, they answer with full confidence that Hacham Ovadya did not speak of Brooklyn in his responsa.

Those wild claims reached the ears of our rabbi and teacher, Gaon Yisrael Hacham Ovadya, in 2005. After I verified that there those who indeed claim so, he could not believe it, and retorted that this was a denial of truth lacking any basis. He therefore placed in my safe-keeping, a handwritten letter that clearly states that his reponsa includes Brooklyn as well. I have kept this letter with me, and I did not advertise it to the masses because of the respect and appreciation for those Rabbis in the area who are strict on the topic. However, seeing that the ill public behavior and lack of basic manners endure, and the humiliation of our Torah as those individuals raise doubt as per the fear of heaven of those who are acting according to their rabbis, I told myself that the time to hold back has passed, and it is my obligation to advertise this clarification.

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