

26 Tamuz 5765

August 2, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

Regarding the questions of the many and the respected ones, that have been asked by our Jewish brethren from the Sephardic and Near-Eastern Communities in the city of Brooklyn, NY, if one is allowed to, *Lekhatchilah* (as a first resort), rely on the *Erub* that is *Surat HaPetah* (in the form of the doorway) and carry in the streets of the city on Shabbat.

I hereby give notice: With Hashem's help, I have already written at length on this topic in my work *Yabia Omer* (Book 9: Orah Haym Chapter 33), and I elucidated as the *halakha lemaaseh* (halakhic practice), that those who wish to be lenient and rely on the *Erub*, have numerous strong trees to rely on (this refers metaphorically to great sages of previous generations). There is room to be lenient even according to the opinion of Maran, whom we have accepted as our halakhic authority. If one reads my responsa there in depth, one will find that many other great halakhic authorities agree to the leniency as well.

I hereby bless, from the depths of my heart, all those who are involved with this holy work of construction and maintaining this *Erub*. May my hand be with them in strengthening and fortifying them, as they have done a great achievement. By establishing and maintaining this *Erub*, many are saved from the obstacle and transgression of carrying in the public domain on Shabbat. May they be blessed with all the blessings of the Torah, for their merit shines as bright as the stars, by saving the masses from sin. Praiseworthy are they in this world, and may their benefit also be in the next world. Especially because those involved in this project are Talmidei Hakhamim, righteous, straight-minded individuals, experts in halakha, and the truth is the only light for their path.

May Hashem give merit to all those who help to support this precious Missvah with long good life, wealth and happiness. Amen.

With the blessings of the Torah,

Ovadya Yosef