

*Free Translation:*

**Rav Bentzion Yaakov Halevi Vosner**

**Av Beis Din Shevet Halevi**

**Monsey – Beit Shemesh**

B”H, Tuesday of the week of “and I will calm down [turning away] from Myself the complaints of the children of Israel” [Parshas Korach], 5776

To my honorable friend (and I don’t know which title to use) Rabbi \*\*\*\*\*,

Regarding the Eiruv which is currently built for the sake of the Crown Heights community, by a respectable Beis Din, and which was checked by Harav Hagaon David Aharon Tzubeli Shlita, and other Rabbis, I have already written to that Rabbi how to deal with this, and the main point is to ignore those who protest and scream, for screaming and protests have been in the past, in the days of the Rishonim and Acharonim, as explained in the responsa of the Rosh, Tashbetz and other Poskim which I mentioned in my letter to him, and all of them have completely rejected them; likewise you too should ignore them, and do what you have to do to enjoy Shabbos and it’s commandments by building an Eiruv and carrying with pride and strength, as the holy Rabbi Chaim Vital Z”L wrote in Shaar Hakavanos (Inyanei Shabbos) that his Rebbe, the Arizal, would carry the Siddur and Tallis on Shabbos morning to the Mikvah, and wouldn’t even ask if the Eiruv is Kosher, and likewise was done by many Tzadikim and Gedolei Yisroel in every city, in every place where there was an Eiruv, including the big cities, as was written by the Rosh, Tashbetz and Chasam Sofer based on what it says clearly in Gemara; among those who carried was the Bnei Yissaschar ZY”A, and I have seen Maase Rav my Rebbe the Beis Yisroel ZY”A, and my father my master and teacher, the Shevet Halevi [Rabbi Shmuel Vosner] ZTZ”L, as he wrote in two Teshuvos in his responsa Shevet Halevi (Volume 8) regarding the importance of

Eiruvim, one of them regarding the Eiruv I built in Greater Chicago in the area where the Hareidim live, and he is who sent me to build it (see his responsa there).

My beloved friends, why should I write at length about such a simple thing? It is a clear Halacha in Shulchan Aruch, and so our fathers and leaders have done throughout the generations, from when King Solomon instituted the Eiruv, as it is written in the Gemara (Eiruvim 21a), that on that day a voice from heaven called out “if your heart has grown wise, my heart too will rejoice”, from then until today, and all this was done even when there was extreme poverty in the Jewish communities, for in those days they didn’t have the opportunities we have today, both because of the governments and because today we have the option of building Eiruvim which are very Mehudar, as I have explained in the responsa.

Based on the above, may your hands be strengthened in the building of the Eiruv to benefit the masses; to those who protest, you should follow the first rule of the Shulchan Aruch (the beginning of Orach Chaim), “don’t be ashamed from those who mock you,” especially if it pertains to honoring the Shabbos; and you should warn those who scream and protest against those who built the Eiruv and those who carry calling them Mechalelei Shabbos etc., that they should know that they are playing with fire, like our sages have said in Gemara (Eiruvim ibid) regarding those who mock the words of our sages, which this applies especially to the concept of building an Eiruv in every possible place, which was something they dedicated their souls to do, to save the masses from transgressing the prohibition of carrying [from a private domain to a public domain], and for the purposes of enjoying the Shabbat; and the Rosh, Tashbetz and Chasam Sofer warned in very sharp words against those who wanted to eliminate the Eiruv in their days.

I would like to ask you, please do all that you can to add peace, which is the way of the Torah, especially with the heads of your dear city, for I personally know the important community of Lubavitch, and some of their respected and beloved Rabbonim Shlita; and if they [=those who oppose the Eiruv] are still stubborn in their ways, let them to do as they wish and not carry, and you do what you have to do with pride and strength and with great happiness, to honor and enjoy Shabbos according to the Shulchan Aruch (Siman 395) who implored on the need and obligation to build an Eiruv in every place, as explained in the Beis Yosef, Bach and Prisha (ibid), based on the words of the Gemara, and based on the vast majority of Gedolei Yisroel and the Minhag of our fathers and Rabbis in every city. May G-d be with you, the valiant soldiers, to give you both worlds, this world and the world to come, in the merit of Shabbos and its blessings.

And what you wrote in the name of one Rabbi that according to the Alter Rebbe the Eiruv is not Kosher, this is not true at all, for when you add together the other Heterim there isn’t a single Posek who prohibits, and this is not the place to expound on this matter, just know that this is the

opinion of the vast majority of Poskim; and I have already written to that Rabbi, that Lmaaseh even the Mishna Berura and the Igros Moshe [Rav Moshe Feinstein] will agree to permit in this matter, and more so, they both wrote clearly that one may not protest against those who are lenient, and why would those who oppose the Eiruv go against them, and lie to the simple folk claiming that they wish to follow their rulings? Rather they are those who follow the footsteps of Korach to add Machlokes, and on you the Torah says “and the one He chooses, He will draw near to Him.”

Remember this rule, the ways of the Torah are the ways of pleasantness, and you will not lose out from following the Torah; G-d has not found a better vessel for receiving blessing better than peace. Be strong and fortified, be happy and rejoice in the happiness of the new Eiruv in Crown Heights, for the honor of the Torah and the honor of Shabbos, and in the merit of the Eiruv we should all merit the redemption speedily in our days, Amen.

These are the words of your friend,

**Bentzion Yaakov Halevi Vosner**

son of my father my master and my teacher Hagaon Rav Shmuel Vosner, author of Shevet Halevi, ZTZ”L