

Draft Memo

To: To Whom It May Concern
From: Rabbi Mordecai Schnaidman
Date: June 12, 2002
Subject: Eruv in Washington Heights

This memo summarizes the substance of a conversation and tour of Washington Heights by Rabbi Hershel Schachter, Rabbi Ellis Bloch and myself on 25 Sivan 5762, June 5, 2002, with regard to installing an Eruv in Washington Heights. Rabbi Bloch and I met at Mount Sinai where we picked up my car and drove to Tennenbaum Hall to pick up Reb Hershel.

- ◆ Before we started our tour, we discussed the general boundaries of the Eruv. We decided that it would encircle only the Western side of the neighborhood and not the area around Yeshiva University. If at a later time there is a request for encompassing the entire area, we can pursue that goal at that time.
- ◆ We then proceeded to drive through the neighborhood and make an initial determination as to what the Eruv boundaries will be:

The east side of the Eruv will consist of a mix of cables and walls. The cables will stretch along the western side of Broadway, from 179th Street all the way up to the corner where Bennett Avenue circles and meets Broadway. Beginning with the end of Bennett Avenue, we can use the wall of the park all the way up to Dyckman Street. At the end of the park we will need some cables to connect up to the Dyckman Street cables. We plan on using the lampposts instead of buildings so as to avoid dealing with individual landlords. We thought that there is no need to place the cables on the eastern side of the street; in this way we avoid having to deal with the question of including Broadway inside the Eruv. The south end of the Eruv will also consist of a mix of cables and walls along 179th Street. There are some walls alongside the bridge that can be used for part of this side of the Eruv.

The western side of the Eruv will essentially be the sheer rock cliff of the hill on which Castle Village sits and the wall surrounding Fort Tryon Park. There will be a need for some connection to the 179th Street side of the Eruv, and a connection on the northern end with the Dyckman side. The West Side highway is excluded from the Eruv.

The northern side of the Eruv will be the cables running from one lamppost to another along Dyckman Street, from the highway to Broadway. These were put up by the Jewish Center, as we recollected, for the purpose of serving the so-called Manhattan Eruv. It appears that they are sufficient and adequate for our purposes. Rabbis Bloch and Schachter actually traced the cables and their end point on the eastern side of the West Side highway.

- ◆ We then determined the immediate follow-up needs for the Eruv project:
 - First, there will be need to call Rabbi Ari Berman of the Jewish Center to determine what he knows about the cables along Dyckman Street. Rabbi Bloch accepted the responsibility to do this.
 - Second, there will be the need to locate detailed neighborhood maps to serve as a basis for the construction lines needed for the Eruv.
 - Third, we will endeavor to ascertain that there will be no vocal, public opposition by the KAJ Kehillah, as we have been led to believe.
 - Fourth, we will find a person who can and is ready to serve as the Rav Hamachshir. It was agreed that turning to an outsider will be better for our needs.
- ◆ During the course of our meeting, we noted the necessary, permanent components of a neighborhood Eruv:
 - Permission (Reshus) from the local police;
 - A construction company;
 - A phone hot line;
 - A designee to do the weekly check;
 - The establishment of a fund raising apparatus, initially and ongoing.