



The Downtown Va'ad, an Orthodox rabbinic network, was established in 2013 to advance the welfare and flourishing of the Downtown Jewish community.

For more information:

facebook.com/downtownvaad

September 29, 2016

כ"ו אלול, תשע"ו

As of today, all of Lower Manhattan has been joined to the larger Manhattan Eruv.

In 1999, a new Eruv was constructed on the Upper West Side under the advisement and supervision of the **Machon L'Hora'ah** of Monsey. In 2003, this Eruv was extended to include the Upper East Side community, and then in 2007 - with the assistance of Yeshiva University (Stern College), local congregations, and several individuals and families – the Eruv was expanded to include a portion of the downtown community. In 2013, we, the rabbis of local congregations, gathered to form a "Downtown Vaad" to develop the religious infrastructure of the Downtown community. Our work includes our supporting of a new Chabad Mikveh, promoting local Kosher restaurants, partnering on outreach efforts, and financially maintaining our portion of the Eruv.

Recently, the Manhattan Eruv was further extended to include the entire southern portion of Manhattan, specifically, the region below 14th Street. This project was initiated by the Downtown Va'ad in conjunction with the Manhattan Eruv leadership, Rabbi Adam Mintz of Congregation Rayim Ahuvim and Rabbi Yosie Levine of the Jewish Center. The extension was facilitated and supervised by the Machon L'Hora'ah and continues to be checked and maintained by them. All halachic (legal) matters are deferred to the Machon.

For more information (status, maps, etc.), please visit the Manhattan Eruv website at Eruv.NYC or the Downtown Eruv Facebook page at facebook.com/DowntownNYCEruv.

This Eruv development is simply the expansion of the pre-existing Eruv; one that most Manhattan rabbis have publicly supported. We understand that the halachic institution of Eruv is complex and we honor and respect all rabbinic and communal perspectives on the matter. We encourage our constituencies to pursue guidance from its own rabbinic authorities and to continue the spirit of mutual respect and dignity that Jewish practice demands and engenders.

May we merit to continue strengthening the Downtown community together for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Gavriel Bellino

Rabbi, Sixth Street Community
Synagogue

Aviad Bodner

Rabbi, Stanton Street Shul

Jason Herman

Rabbi, West Side Jewish Center/
Hudson Yards Synagogue

Yehuda Sarna

Rabbi/Executive Director, NYU's
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Chaplain, NYU

Sion Setton

Rabbi, Downtown Va'ad

Joe Wolfson

Rabbi, NYU's Bronfman Center
& JLIC