

הסתדרות הרבנים דאמריקא

Rabbinical Council of America

331 Madison Avenue

New York 17, N. Y.

Murray Hill 2-7013

Cable Address:
HISRABONIM, N. Y.

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Rabbi Norman Lamm
615 W. Walnut Street
Long Beach, New York

Dear Rabbi Lamm:

With reference to your inquiry may I state first of all that we in the Rabbinical Council deem you an authority on Halachah and that as Moro D'asro of your community you are the authority to decide all questions of Jewish Law and it is within the province of your prerogative to make the decisions which need to be made. We know that whatever decisions you make will always be based upon Halachah without any deviation from its principles.

With regard to the specific items under discussion, our Halachah Commission has on numerous occasions studied the various facets of the problems and has always come to the conclusions that:

The "mechitzah" is an integral part of the synagogue and is ordained by the Halachah. Its absence reflects upon the synagogue as a sanctuary and deprives it of the "Keddusha" which differentiates it from another building. A house of worship must according to Halachah have a separation between the sexes in order that it might be a suitable place for worship. There can be no other opinion on this in the Halachah.

On the question of microphone, may I say that our Halachah Commission considers the use of a microphone on the Sabbath a forbidden act involving issurim proscribed in the Torah.

I am confident that because your authority and scholarship are recognized that the decisions which you will make will be accepted without questions.

Kindest personal regards.

Cordially,



Rabbi Israel Klavan
Executive Secretary

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