

**MINUTES OF THE MARCH 18, 2014 MEETING OF THE
MUSLIM AMERICAN ADVISORY COUNCIL**

The Muslim American Advisory Council (“MAAC” or the “Council”), pursuant to notice duly given, held a Meeting on March 18, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. in the James R. Thompson Center, 100 West Randolph Street, Suite 16-100, Chicago, Illinois 60601.

MAAC Members Present:

1. Sohair Omar, Co-Chair
2. Dr. Bambade Shakoor-Abdullah
3. Dr. Irfan Ahmad (via audio conference)
4. Murad Moosa Bhaidani (via audio conference)
5. Mumtaz Champsi (via audio conference)
6. Clyde El-Amin
7. S. Jafer Hasnain (via audio conference)
8. Dzafer Kulenovic (via audio conference)
9. Tariq Malhance
10. Aisha Qadeem (via audio conference)
11. Ahmed Rehab
12. Dr. Mohammad Zaher Sahloul (via audio conference)

MAAC Members Absent:

1. Kareem M. Irfan, Esq., Co-Chair
2. Tariq El-Amin
3. Mohammed Kaiseruddin
4. Dr. Sevil Kutay
5. Najjar Abdul-Musawwir
6. Salim Al Nurridin
7. Eboo Patel
8. Imad Rahman
9. Safaa Zarzour, Esq.

Guests Present:

Suzanne Akhras, Syrian American Medical Society
Mohammed Amardini
Jeremy Kruidenier, Governor’s Office of Legislative Affairs
Ndidi Okakpu, Chicagoland Shura Council
Mark Zajac, Office of the Governor

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Co-Chair Omar called the Meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Mr. Zajac called the roll. There being five (5) Members physically present and seven (7) Members participating via audio conference, a quorum was met.

II. Co-Chairs' Remarks

Co-Chair Omar welcomed those in attendance and noted the absence of Co-Chair Irfan, who was unable to attend due to his professional obligations. She also noted that Inamul Haq, Laila Muhammad, and Anas Usman were no longer Members of the Council following the December 18, 2013 Meeting due to their attendance record.

She encouraged Members to promote the upcoming state employment workshop co-hosted by the Office of the Governor and the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago ("CIOGC") in order to increase Muslim American participation in the State's workforce.

Co-Chair Omar then commended the Syrian American Medical Society ("SAMS") for their relief efforts in response to the ongoing conflict in Syria, and thanked Governor Quinn for proclaiming March 8, 2014 as "Syrian American Medical Society Day" in Illinois to raise awareness of humanitarian aid to the people of Syria, per the Council's recommendation.

She noted that, due to the ongoing Spring 2014 legislative session in Springfield, much of the Council's discussion would now be focused on legislative affairs. She thanked Dr. Bambade, Chair of the Legislative Committee, for her hard work and welcomed the following Members to join the Council's Legislative Committee: Aisha Qadeem and Dr. Mohammed Zaher Sahloul.

III. Adoption of the Minutes

Having a quorum, Minutes of the Meeting held on December 17, 2013 were taken up for consideration. Mr. Malhance moved for the adoption of the Minutes. Dr. Bambade seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. Report by the Legislative Affairs Committee

Dr. Bambade presented the following list of bills, as well as a budgetary line item, that the Council might have interest in supporting: SB2735, SB3521, SB2937, HB4496 and HB3668. These bills focus on the Council's policy priorities of human services, public safety, and violence prevention. Discussion ensued.

V. Presentation of Governor Quinn's Spring 2014 Legislative Priorities

Mr. Kruidenier, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Governor's Office of Legislative Affairs, presented Governor Quinn's legislative priorities for the Spring 2014 legislative session, including an

increase of the minimum wage, the doubling of the earned income tax credit over five years, an employer mandate to establish two paid sick days per employee per year, reasonable accommodations for pregnant women, and a reduction in first-time LLC fees. He also noted that tax policy would be a prominent issue following the Governor's Budget Address. Discussion ensued.

VI. Report by the Economic Development Committee

Co-Chair Omar noted that, per the Council's recommendation, she is working with the Illinois State Board of Investment to add a socially responsible fund to the investment selection of the State of Illinois Employees' Deferred Compensation Plan.

Mr. Hasnain explained that the Economic Development Committee was working with students from the Islamic Foundation School to create a database of public and private resources in Illinois with regards to clean water availability, to be used for future reference.

VII. Report by the Communications Committee

Co-Chair Omar informed the Members that, per the Council's recommendation, the "Cultural Sensitivity Guide for State Employees" drafted by the Council had been sent by the Illinois Department of Human Rights ("IDHR") to all Agency Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Officers and Recruiters and posted on IDHR's website, having been very positively received.

Mr. Rehab then noted that CAIR-Chicago had recently hired a cultural sensitivity professional who would be available to IDHR for presentations and/or workshops if desired.

VIII. Other Business

Mr. Bhaidani notified Members that the University of Chicago would be hosting an academic discussion on alternative dispute resolution.

Co-Chair Omar encouraged Members once again to promote the upcoming state employment workshop.

On behalf of the Illinois Muslim community, Mr. Sahloul and Mr. Rehab expressed their support of Joseph Hurst's clemency petition.

Mr. Rehab noted the success of CAIR-Chicago's banquet event, which was attended by over one thousand (1000) people, demonstrating the Muslim American community's commitment to civil rights.

IX. Public Comment

None.

X. Adjournment

Mr. El-Amin made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Rehab seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The MAAC Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by:

Mark Zajac
Chief of Staff Dunn Fellow
Office of the Governor