

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 15, 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 April 15, 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. Kareem M. Irfan, Esq., Co-Chair (via audio conference)
2. Sohair Omar, Co-Chair
3. Dr. Bambade Shakoor-Abdullah (via audio conference)
4. Dr. Irfan Ahmad (via audio conference)
5. Mumtaz Champsi (via audio conference)
6. Clyde El-Amin
7. Zakee Shahid (designee of Tariq El-Amin, via audio conference)
8. Dzafer Kulenovic (via audio conference)
9. Dr. Sevil Kutay
10. Tariq Malhance
11. Salim Al Nurridin (via audio conference)
12. Imad Rahman (via audio conference)

MAAC Members Absent:

1. Murad Moosa Bhaidani
2. S. Jafer Hasnain
3. Mohammed Kaiseruddin
4. Najjar Abdul-Musawwir
5. Eboo Patel
6. Aisha Qadeem
7. Ahmed Rehab
8. Dr. Mohammad Zaher Sahloul
9. Safaa Zarzour, Esq.

Guests Present:

Husna Ghani, Islamic Foundation and Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago
Abed Moiduddin, Inner-City Muslim Action Network
Ndidi Okakpu, Chicagoland Shura Council (via audio conference)
Gladyse Taylor, Illinois Department of Corrections
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.

Co-Chair Omar called the roll. There being four (4) Members physically present and eight (8) Members participating via audio conference, a quorum was met.

II. Co-Chairs' Remarks

Co-Chair Omar welcomed those in attendance and noted that it was Tax Day, encouraging members to file their taxes if they had not yet done so. She also noted the success of the employment workshop co-hosted by the State of Illinois and the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago ("CIOGC") last month.

She went on to read the statement made by Governor Quinn on March 27, 2014 on the recent shot fired at an Orland Park mosque:

I am saddened to learn of the bullet that was allegedly fired through the dome at the Orland Park Prayer Center during Tuesday's Fajr prayer and encourage a thorough investigation by law enforcement authorities.

That bullet which shattered the solemn early morning reflection for these worshippers shatters the serenity and dignity of every Illinoisan.

We should all be able to agree that there is no place in Illinois for hate crimes, intimidation and religious intolerance. We are all relieved that an arrest was made last month in the vandalism of several Lake County houses of worship and trust that the perpetrator in Tuesday's Orland Park attack will be apprehended quickly as well.

In view of this incident, Co-Chair Omar offered her prayers on behalf of the Council for the victims of the Kansas City shooting.

III. Adoption of the Minutes

Having a quorum, Minutes of the Meeting held on March 18, 2014 were taken up for consideration. A motion was made to adopt the Minutes and carried unanimously.

IV. Presentation on the Illinois Criminal Justice System

Ms. Taylor, Assistant Director of the Illinois Department of Corrections ("IDOC"), presented on the Illinois Criminal Justice System, highlighting the functions of IDOC, the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice and the Illinois Prisoner Review Board. Dr. Bambade thanked Ms. Taylor for her presentation and asked her questions to which Ms. Taylor provided answers. Discussion ensued. Co-Chair Omar stated that the Muslim American community desires to partner with IDOC on its community-based rehabilitation and reentry initiatives.

Co-Chair Omar noted that Council Members may submit a letter of support to formally express their support of Joseph Hurst's clemency petition. Discussion ensued. Dr. Bambade and Mr. Al Nurridin agreed to take the lead on this matter.

V. Report by the Legislative Affairs Committee

Dr. Bambade noted positive movement on the legislation identified by the Council in the previous meeting as important to the Illinois Muslim community.

VI. Report by the Economic Development Committee

Ms. Champsi notified the Council that Mr. Hasnain continues to work with the Islamic Foundation on the Economic Development Committee's research project. Co-Chair Omar welcomed the Economic Development Committee to work with the Illinois Office of Trade and Investment as the Fiscal Year 2015 trade mission schedule is planned.

VII. Report by the Communications Committee

Co-Chair Omar informed the Council that she would connect CAIR-Chicago's cultural sensitivity professional with the Illinois Department of Human Rights in order to hold regular cultural sensitivity presentations and workshops.

VIII. Other Business

Dr. Bambade encouraged the Council to participate along with CIOGC in Illinois Muslim ACTION! Day on April 30, 2014 in Springfield.

Co-Chair Omar informed the Council that the Illinois Department of Natural Resources is currently accepting applications for paid summer interns.

IX. Public Comment

Mr. Al Nurridin commended Co-Chair Omar on her excellent work serving and leading the Council, to which all other Members agreed.

X. Adjournment

Dr. Bambade made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Kulenovic seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The MAAC Meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

Minutes submitted by:

Mark Zajac
Chief of Staff Dunn Fellow
Office of the Governor