

**MINUTES OF THE MARCH 19, 2013 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 19, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. in the James R. Thompson Center, 100 West Randolph Street, Room 2-025, Chicago, Illinois 60601.

**MAAC Members Present:**

1. Sohair Omar, Co-Chair
2. Kareem M. Irfan, Esq., Co-Chair (via audio conference)
3. Dr. Bambade Shakoor Abdullah (via audio conference)
4. Dr. Irfan Ahmad (via audio conference)
5. Mumtaz Champsi
6. Clyde Elameen (via audio conference)
7. Dr. Inamul Haq (via audio conference)
8. S. Jafer Hasnain (via audio conference)
9. Dzafer Kulenovic (via audio conference)
10. Dr. Sevil Kutay
11. Salim Al Nurridin (via audio conference)
12. Imad Rahman (via audio conference)
13. Dr. Mohammed Zaher Sahloul

**MAAC Members Absent:**

1. Murad Moosa Bhaidani
2. Najjar Abdul-Musawwir
3. Tariq El-Amin
4. Wesley Lebron
5. Tariq Malhance
6. Maaria Mozaffar, Esq.
7. Laila Muhammad
8. Rami Nashashibi
9. Eboo Patel
10. Ahmed Rehab
11. Anas Usman

**Guests Present:**

Cory Foster, Governor’s Office of Legislative Affairs  
Rob Gelles, Illinois Finance Authority  
Romana Manzoor, American Islamic College

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Co-Chair Omar called the Meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

Mr. Gelles called the roll. There being four (4) members physically present and nine (9) members participating via audio conference, a quorum was reached.

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Council held on January 15, 2013 were taken up for consideration. Dr. Kutay moved for the adoption of the Minutes. Mr. Al Nurridin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **II. Co-Chairs' Remarks**

Co-Chair Irfan introduced the Meeting as another opportunity to come together to discuss issues of importance to the Muslim American community of Illinois and offer recommendations to the Governor. He recognized and thanked Co-Chair Omar for her leadership. Mr. Irfan reiterated his appreciation for Governor Quinn's appointment of Co-Chair Omar and recognized the professional, transparent and collaborative approach adopted by her. He also reminded MAAC Members of the need for positive, cooperative engagement in developing documented recommendations for the Governor's consideration in order to effectively discharge the significant advisory role of the Council.

## **III. Welcome and Introduction of New Members**

Co-Chair Omar introduced and welcomed Dr. Kutay and Ms. Qadeem as new Members of the Council.

## **IV. Presentation of Governor Quinn's Spring 2013 Legislative Priorities**

Mr. Foster presented the Governor's legislative priorities for the 98<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, which included: (i) pension stabilization; (ii) a sustainable budget; (iii) an ordered introduction of the healthcare exchange; (iv) increased public safety; and (v) a minimum wage increase. Discussion ensued. Some questions were addressed to Mr. Foster, to which he provided answers.

## **V. Report by the Legislative Affairs Committee**

Dr. Abdullah presented four (4) legislative issues: (i) immigration services; (ii) Freedom from Drone Surveillance Act (SB1587); (iii) Youth Jobs Program (SB1323); and (iv) definition of the term "minority" (HB0005). Discussion ensued. It was noted that SB1587 had been placed on Calendar Order of 2nd Reading; SB1323 had been referred to State Government and Veterans Affairs Committee; and HB0005 failed in State Government Administration Committee last week.

## **VI. Report by the Economic Development Committee**

Mr. Hasnain presented the report by the Economic Development Committee. He stated that it is the hope of the Economic Development Committee that MAAC uses the Economic Development Committee to reach out to the Muslim American community. Co-Chair Omar reminded MAAC that the objective of MAAC is to advise the Governor on issues impacting Muslim Americans in Illinois as well as ways in which Illinois can increase trade and cooperation with Muslim-

majority countries. Ms. Champsi inquired about the guidelines of certain programs administered by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (“DCEO”). Co-Chair Omar stated that she would provide the Economic Development Committee a Point-of-Contact at DCEO to learn more about State programs.

## **VII. Other Business**

Mr. Al Nurridin stated that the Trade Mission organized by the Illinois Office of Trade and Investment to MEDEXPO Saudi Arabia 2013, a Trade Show Exhibition, had reached its capacity before he could participate. Mr. Al Nurridin stated that he will work with the Economic Development Committee to develop a recommendation to the Governor to increase awareness in the community on trade opportunities.

## **IX. Public Comment**

Ms. Manzoor thanked MAAC for allowing the American Islamic College (“AIC”) to attend its Meeting and hoped that AIC could contribute to the work of MAAC. Co-Chair Omar stated that MAAC is subject to the Open Meetings Act; therefore, any member of the public is welcomed to attend.

Dr. Sahloul suggested that MAAC coordinate its Meeting Schedule with the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago to maximize participation at its Meetings.

## **X. Adjournment**

Dr. Sahloul made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Al Nurridin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The MAAC Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by:

Robert Gelles