



**Muslim American Advisory Council (MAAC)
Meeting December 1, 2011 (4:30 – 6:30 PM)**

MINUTES OF MEETING

(Submitted by the MAAC Co-Chairs Samreen Khan & Kareem M. Irfan)

- I. **Welcome:** Co-Chairs Samreen and Irfan checked in attendees for the second meeting of the MAAC. There was a question regarding Illinois quorum requirements and it was confirmed that quorum requirements for all meetings are $\frac{1}{2}$ of all members plus one. This meeting was found to have met such requirements.
- II. **Council approved Minutes from first Inaugural meeting.**
- III. **Council Charter:** Members reviewed Council Charter and motioned to approve. There was a consensus that the order of items on the Charter did not reflect a matter of priority. It was also confirmed that the Charter accurately represented the diversity of the Muslim community.
- IV. **Aga Khan Event:** Debriefing of the Agreement of Cooperation signed between the Governor and His Highness, the Aga Khan. The AOC formalizes the partnership between the State of Illinois and the Aga Khan Development Network and highlights best practices in areas of child development, health, education, community development, and architecture. Governor intends to appoint three to four people on a steering committee. The implementation of the

AOC will involve MAAC. The event briefing also raised the question on adding relevant information to the MAAC website in the future to ensure that Council members and others are informed on events and issues in the community.

V. Agenda Items: Members moved to approve agenda items and presented additional changes and topics. The addendum to the original meeting agenda is as follows:

- a. Approve Minutes from MAAC Inaugural Meeting
- b. Review & Approve Council Charter
- c. Upcoming Events/Notices for Dissemination
- d. Committee Structure & Working Groups
- e. Website Review & Suggestions
- f. Preliminary Progress Report
- g. Next Meeting (Springfield)
- h. Technology and Logistical Arrangements
- i. Strategies and responses raised by MAAC criticisms

VI. Purpose: Co-chairs reiterated the historical and incredible value provided by the Council.

- a. Members agreed that their role, as representatives of various communities, is to serve and advise the Governor. Members will provide honest and efficient feedback on issues under their jurisdiction.
- b. Members raised the concern of an appointment of a member of the Governor's staff on the Council as a Co-chair. After a thorough discussion, Co-chairs confirmed that because the Council was created by Executive Action, not Legislative, there were no issues with Governors' staff members on the Council. In addition, the Council is led by two Co-chairs to allow for a system of checks and balances.
- c. It was also established that a distinction must be made between serving the governor and serving the state. Ultimately, it was agreed upon that the

benefits MAAC provides to the governor must also align with the benefits MAAC provides to the communities they represent.

- d. There was discussion concerning the Governor's future participation in MAAC activities. Co-chairs reminded members that before the meeting, the majority voted to involve the Governor when there were more substantive agenda items to discuss. It was decided that a better alternative would be to invite legislators and appropriate representatives to establish the Council's standing and credibility.
- e. Co-chairs urged members to be honest and reminded members that all issues of sensitivity must be addressed promptly and respectfully.

VII. Committee Structure:

- a. Members were asked to choose between three Committees, decided upon by priority themes: 1) Constituent Outreach & Communications 2) Legislations & Policies 3) Economic Development, Trade, & Commerce.
- b. Committee Action/Next Steps
 - i. Make a nomination for whom they think should act as chair (s).
 - ii. Have the flexibility to refine Committee's description and objectives, while staying in line with the MAAC charter
 - iii. Be aided by members of the Governor's staff for help with facilitation and coordination of activities as needed
- c. All Committee chairs will collectively constitute a Steering Committee. The Steering Committee is limited to eight people, including the two Council Co-chairs
- d. Working group membership for Committees is not restricted to Council members, but each member suggested on the working committee is subject to veto by Council members.

VIII. Next meeting: Council members will aim to hold the next meeting on the same day as State of the State Address in Springfield (Tentatively planned for February 1, 2012). Prior to this meeting, Committees should have actionable

objectives and goals. Governor's attendance at the next meeting is contingent on other events related to the State of the State Address, but it may be possible for other government representatives to be present. If the Governor is present, a preliminary progress report shall be presented. A timeline will be created to better facilitate and coordinate Council activities.

IX. Additional Agenda Items:

- a. Logistical Arrangements: There is still work to be done for more technologically advanced arrangements, including access to WebX or Skype for members unavailable to attend in person or in Springfield.
- b. Strategies and responses towards MAAC criticism: There was a general consensus that the Governor should rely on Council members for accurate, representative information when responding to MAAC criticisms. It was also agreed upon that when the Co-chairs receive notice of such criticisms, it is a matter of fiduciary duty to inform members so appropriate steps be taken. This shall fall under the jurisdiction of the Constituent Outreach & Communications

X. Co-chairs adjourn meeting

Chicago Attendees:

Samreen Khan

Kareem Irfan

Dr. Bambade Shakoor Abdullah

Murad Moosa Bhaidani

Mumtaz Champsi

Clyde El-Amin

Tariq El-Amin

Rami Nashashibi

Ahmed Rehab

Dr. Mohammad Zaher Sahloul

Phone:

Dr. Irfan Ahmad

S. Jafer Hasnain

Jeff Kulenovic

Maaria Mozaffar

Laila Muhammad

Imad Rahman

Safaa Zarzour

Absent:

Najjar Abdul Musawwir

Dr. Inamul Haq

Wasley Lebron

Tariq Malhance

Dr. Maryam Mostoufi

Salim Al Nurridin

Nia Odeoti-Hasan

Eboo Patel

Anas Usman

Staff:

Robert Dembo

Mavara Agha

Nafia Khan