

## **MINUTES OF THE MAY 21, 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 May 21, 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. 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. Dr. Inamul Haq
8. S. Jafer Hasnain (via audio conference)
9. Dzafer Kulenovic (via audio conference)
10. Tariq Malhance (via audio conference)
11. Jenan Mohajir (designee of Eboo Patel)
12. Salim Al Nurridin (via audio conference)

### **MAAC Members Absent:**

1. Kareem M. Irfan, Esq., Co-Chair
2. Tariq El-Amin
3. Dr. Sevil Kutay
4. Wesley Lebron
5. Laila Muhammad
6. Najjar Abdul-Musawwir
7. Rami Nashashibi
8. Aisha Qadeem
9. Imad Rahman
10. Ahmed Rehab
11. Dr. Mohammad Zaher Sahloul
12. Anas Usman
13. Safaa Zarzour, Esq.

### **Guests Present:**

Kasib Abdullah, CMECCA

Salman Aftab

Abir Ahmed, Governor’s Office

Brian Gorman, Governor’s Office

Mohammed Kaiseruddin, Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago (“CIOGC”)

Tarek Khalil

Theresa Mah, Governor's Office  
Aasim Padela, MD, MSc, University of Chicago

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

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

Ms. Ahmed called the roll. There being four (4) Members physically present and seven (7) Members participating via audio conference, a quorum was reached.

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Council held on March 19, 2013 were taken up for consideration. Dr. Bambade moved for the adoption of the Minutes. Mr. El-Amin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Co-Chair Omar welcomed Members and guests to the Meeting. She stated that Governor Quinn was pleased to address the participants of the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Illinois Muslim ACTION! Day on April 18, 2013. Dr. Kaiseruddin, Chairman of CIOGC, expressed his gratitude to Governor Quinn. Co-Chair Omar indicated that Co-Chair Irfan was overseas; therefore, he could not attend the Meeting. She read the following remarks sent by Mr. Irfan from India:

“Dear MAAC colleagues: I offer you greetings from my business trip in Bangalore, India. It has been fun to collaborate with Ms. Sohair across continents in planning for this meeting. She has organized a set of authoritative speakers and I am confident the MAAC will benefit with highly relevant information for the benefit of MAAC.

Allow me to remind you that we are privileged to serve on the MAAC, the nation's only faith-based advisory body appointed to advise a sitting State Governor! We must stay committed to the task assigned by Governor Quinn, especially the periodic reports due from us. If for personal or professional reasons, you are simply unable to regularly attend MAAC meetings and be actively engaged, kindly contact us so we may find alternates to keep MAAC actions ongoing. All the best for a productive meeting. Best regards, Kareem Irfan.”

Co-Chair Omar announced the resignation of Maaria Mozaffar and Wesley Lebron from the Council. Additionally, she introduced Dr. Kaiseruddin as a new Ex-Officio of MAAC. Lastly, she introduced Dr. Mah, Senior Policy Advisor and Director of Asian American Outreach in the Governor's Office.

## **III. Overview of the Implementation of the Affordable Care Act (Brian Gorman, Governor's Office)**

Mr. Gorman provided an overview of the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Mr. Gorman asserted that he recognized people come from a variety of backgrounds and that this historic piece of legislation will take that into account. Discussion ensued.

**IV. Presentation of the Initiative on Islam and Medicine (Aasim Padela, MD, MSc, University of Chicago)**

Dr. Padela divided his presentation into three (3) sections: (i) introduction of the Initiative on Islam and Medicine at the University of Chicago; (ii) dispelling myths about American Muslim health; and (iii) suggestions from Members and guests. Discussion ensued.

**V. Discussion of the Council's First Semiannual Report to the Governor**

Co-Chair Omar announced that the Council was not prepared to vote on its recommendations to the Governor. She proposed moving the July meeting to June in order to complete the Council's Report. A tentative date of June 18, 2013 was set. Co-Chair Omar requested that all members submit policy recommendations to Ms. Ahmed by May 31, 2013.

**VI. Report by the Legislative Affairs Committee**

Co-Chair Omar affirmed that Dr. Bambade would now lead the Legislative Affairs Committee. Dr. Bambade discussed the outcomes of the 5th Annual Illinois Muslim ACTION! Day. Additionally, she indicated that SB1587 had passed the Senate but had not been voted on in the House, and that SB1323 was assigned to the Appropriations Committee on April 29, 2013.

**VII. Report by the Economic Development Committee**

The Economic Development Committee did not have a report to present. Co-Chair Omar stated that the "Winning with the State" Business Forum will be held on June 3, 2013 at Malcolm X College to educate small and diverse businesses about State contracting opportunities.

**VIII. Report by the Communications Committee**

The Communications Committee did not have a report to present. Co-Chair Omar mentioned as the "Who is My Muslim Neighbor?" event organized by the Coalition of Elgin Religious Leaders and the Elgin Human Relations Commission to foster religious tolerance in northern Illinois.

**IX. Other Business**

Co-Chair Omar announced that all Members and guests were given internship opportunities at State Agencies to disseminate to their communities in order to promote diversity in State government.

**X. Public Comment**

Mr. Khalil stated that the Meeting was informative.

**XI. Adjournment**

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

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

Minutes submitted by:

Abir Ahmed  
Legal Dunn Fellow  
Office of the Governor