

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 17, 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 September 17, 2013 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 (via audio conference)
7. S. Jafer Hasnain
8. Dzafer Kulenovic (via audio conference)
9. Tasneem Osmani (designee of Dr. Mohammed Kaiseruddin, Ex-Officio)
10. Aisha Qadeem (via audio conference)

**MAAC Members Absent:**

1. Kareem M. Irfan, Esq., Co-Chair
2. Tariq El-Amin
3. Dr. Inamul Haq
4. Dr. Sevil Kutay
5. Tariq Malhance
6. Laila Muhammad
7. Najjar Abdul-Musawwir
8. Rami Nashashibi
9. Salim Al Nurridin
10. Eboo Patel
11. Imad Rahman
12. Ahmed Rehab
13. Dr. Mohammad Zaher Sahloul
14. Anas Osman
15. Safaa Zarzour, Esq.

**Guests Present:**

Nada Alkadar, Uruk Human Services

Maniza Azam, Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago (“CIOGC”)

John Barr, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (“DCEO”), Office of Employment and Training

Husna Ghani, CIOGC

Nia Odeoti-Hassan (via audio conference)

Tasneem Osmani, CIOGC

Talat Othman, Arab-American Business & Professional Association  
Matthew Ramadan, One Chicago Community Development Corporation  
Omar Shaker, Arab American Family Services  
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 four (4) Members physically present and six (6) Members participating via audio conference, a quorum was not met.

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

Co-Chair Omar recapped the completion of the First Semiannual Report to Governor Quinn, noting that the Governor was pleased with it and stated that he will work with the Council to implement its recommendations. She also highlighted Governor Quinn's recent accomplishments for Illinois' Muslim community including his hosting of the first-ever "Iftar" Dinner at the Illinois Executive Mansion.

Co-Chair Omar went on to discuss various State employment opportunities and reminded the Council about completing their 2013 Ethics Training. Lastly, she acknowledged the low attendance among members. Dr. Bambade suggested reducing membership in an attempt to meet quorum in subsequent meetings. Co-Chair Omar agreed and stated that Members, who are absent from three (3) consecutive meetings, beginning October 22, 2013, will no longer be considered Members.

## **III. Adoption of the Minutes**

Not having a quorum, the Council could not adopt the Minutes of the Meetings held on May 21, 2013 and June 18, 2013.

## **IV. Timeline of the Council's Second Semiannual Report to Governor Quinn**

Co-Chair Omar stated that the Council would meet every month for the remainder of the calendar year. The plan is to have a set of draft recommendations developed by the Council's Meeting in November 2013 and have the Council's Second Semiannual Report finalized in December 2013.

## **V. Presentation of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Youth Employment Program**

Mr. Barr from DCEO's Office of Employment and Training presented an overview of the existing Summer Youth Employment Program in response to the Council's recommendation to increase funding for youth employment as a means to prevent violence. He noted the accomplishments of the program this year as well as plans to improve the program in upcoming

years. A discussion ensued, touching on long-term employment opportunities and ways for businesses and community organizations to become more involved in existing DCEO programs.

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

Dr. Bambade noted that the Legislative Affairs Committee plans to begin preparing for the Spring 2014 Legislative Session. She intends to reach out to the current Members for their input.

Co-Chair Omar encouraged all Members to participate in the Fall 2013 Veto Session.

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

Mr. Hasnain stated that he would like to revisit the First Semiannual Report in order to track the implementation and progress of the Council's Economic Development recommendations.

Co-Chair Omar notified members that a group of students from the Islamic Foundation School compiled trade and economic profiles for all Muslim-majority countries, which will be sent to the Economic Development Committee by Mr. Zajac for review. She went on to highlight recent and upcoming trade missions between Illinois and Arab/Persian Gulf countries. Discussion ensued.

#### **VIII. Report by the Communications Committee**

In the absence of Mr. Rehab, there was no report by the Communications Committee.

#### **IX. Other Business**

None.

#### **X. Public Comment**

None.

#### **XI. Adjournment**

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

The MAAC Meeting adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

Minutes submitted by:

Mark Zajac  
Chief of Staff Dunn Fellow  
Office of the Governor