

**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 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 November 19, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. in the James R. Thompson Center, 100 West Randolph Street, Suite 2-025, 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
5. Murad Moosa Bhaidani (via audio conference)
6. Mumtaz Champsi
7. Clyde El-Amin (via audio conference)
8. Tariq El-Amin (via audio conference)
9. S. Jafer Hasnain (via audio conference)
10. Dr. Sevil Kutay
11. Tariq Malhance
12. Aisha Qadeem (via audio conference)
13. Imad Rahman (via audio conference)

MAAC Members Absent:

1. Inamul Haq
2. Mohammed Kaiseruddin, Ex-Officio
3. Dzafer Kulenovic
4. Laila Muhammad
5. Najjar Abdul-Musawwir
6. Rami Nashashibi
7. Salim Al Nurridin
8. Eboo Patel
9. Ahmed Rehab
10. Dr. Mohammad Zaher Sahloul
11. Anas Usman
12. Safaa Zarzour, Esq.

Guests Present:

Kasib Abdullah, CMECCA School
Nada Alkadar, Uruk Human Services
Robert Gelles
Khalil Khalil, Arab American Democratic Club
Nia Odeoti-Hassan (via audio conference)

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Co-Chair Omar called the Meeting to order at 3:14 p.m.

Mr. Gelles called the roll. There being five (5) Members physically present and eight (8) Members participating via audio conference, a quorum was met.

II. Co-Chairs' Remarks

Co-Chair Omar encouraged Members to support the relief efforts that are helping millions of people in the Philippines recover from Super Typhoon Haiyan, and the relief efforts that are assisting victims of the November 17 tornadoes that devastated several communities in Illinois. Furthermore, Co-Chair Omar encouraged Members, especially those that reside in Central Illinois, to visit Ready.Illinois.gov for information on specific sites that can utilize volunteers.

Co-Chair Irfan offered prayers for those affected by Super Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines and the extreme weather in Illinois. He noted that Zakat Foundation, Islamic Relief and Helping Hand for Relief and Development are also leading relief efforts.

Co-Chair Irfan commended Members who had reaffirmed their commitment, at his request, to actively serve on the Council and asked those who had not yet reaffirmed their commitment to respond to his email.

III. Adoption of Minutes

Having a quorum, minutes of the meeting held on October 22, 2013 were taken up for consideration. Dr. Bambade moved for the adoption of the minutes. Dr. Kutay seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. Discussion on the Council's Second Semiannual Report to the Governor

Co-Chair Omar noted that several recommendations made to Governor Quinn by MAAC had been implemented, such as the enactment of Senate Bill 1587, Freedom from Drone Surveillance Act, into State law (Public Act 98-0569). She then stated that the Council's next report should attempt to achieve the policy goals that were not met in the Council's First Semiannual Report and asked the committees to report their draft proposals.

V. Report by the Legislative Affairs Committee

Dr. Bambade also noted the Council's success on its First Semiannual Report to the Governor. She then presented draft recommendations concerning public safety, economic development and healthcare. Discussion ensued.

Dr. Bambade reported on her meeting with the Governor's Office regarding violence prevention.

Dr. Bambade requested additional assistance from the Governor's Office on behalf of the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago ("CIOGC") in reaching out to and enrolling Muslim Americans, particularly African and African American Muslims, under the Affordable Care Act. Co-Chair Omar stated that the Director of Outreach and Consumer Education at the Illinois Health Insurance Marketplace is able and willing to assist CIOGC in its enrollment efforts.

VI. Report by the Economic Development Committee

Ms. Champsi reported on the Economic Development Committee's progress. She stated that the Economic Development Committee met earlier with the Illinois Office of Trade and Investment and Blue Tech Alliance regarding market opportunities in Muslim-majority countries for Illinois water technology companies.

Co-Chair Omar provided an update on Governor Quinn's Clean Water Initiative.

Mr. Malhance presented a draft recommendation concerning faith-based investment options for public employees.

VII. Report by the Communication Committee

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

VIII. Other Business

Dr. Bambade commended Governor Quinn for signing Senate Bill 1587, Freedom from Drone Surveillance Act, into law; but emphasized the need for a similar law to regulate privately operated drones. Co-Chair Omar affirmed Dr. Bambade's suggestion by quoting a recent news article in the Sun-Times titled "State needs to get ahead of drones."

Dr. Bambade also emphasized the need for "dry zones," in which the consumption or possession of liquor is prohibited, as a tool to reduce violence. She explained a study conducted by Northwestern University that states that people near a liquor store or bar on Chicago's South and West Sides are up to five hundred (500) times more likely to get shot than other people in the neighborhood.

Co-Chair Omar requested Members to submit any further draft recommendations to Mark Zajac before November 30, 2013 for inclusion in the Council's Second Semiannual Report to the Governor.

IX. Public Comment

None.

X. Adjournment

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

The MAAC Meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Minutes submitted by:

Robert Gelles