



**CAIR**  
CHICAGO

# 2012 ANNUAL REPORT





# Table of Contents

Executive Note.....	03
Financial Summary.....	06
In Focus: The Prison Project.....	07
Civil Rights Department.....	09
In Focus: Responding to Hate.....	15
Outreach Department.....	17
InFocus: Internship and Volunteer Activist Program.....	25
Communications Department.....	27
InFocus: The Chicago Monitor.....	33



# CAIR-Chicago

CAIR (the Council on American-Islamic Relations) was founded in 1994 and is a Muslim civil rights organization based in Washington, DC. CAIR-Chicago is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization registered independently in Illinois. CAIR-Chicago raises its own funds from its local constituency and sets its own operational and strategic agenda. Our office, located in the heart of Chicago's downtown business district, is currently in its ninth year of operation.

**Our Vision:** To attain equal opportunity for - and normalize the image of - Muslims in America.

**Our Mission:** To defend civil rights, fight bigotry, and promote tolerance.

## TESTIMONIALS

*"I congratulate CAIR-Chicago on another successful year of serving the needs of the Muslim population in Illinois, and for working toward ensuring justice and civil rights for all the communities you serve. Your efforts to reach out to divergent faiths and build broad coalitions are truly commendable. In a state as diverse as ours, every effort to broaden cultural awareness and understanding is truly appreciated."*

**-Pat Quinn, Governor of Illinois**

*"I would like to extend my gratitude to all CAIR-Chicago members for working together to support a new generation of leaders who will continue our mutual goal of guaranteeing equality and respect for all people."*

**-Tammy Duckworth, U.S. Congresswoman**

*"[CAIR-Chicago's] efforts encouraging equality, enhancing cultural knowledge, and promoting justice are both admirable and necessary. The work that CAIR-Chicago does for our city and across the nation not only enriches the Muslim community but also expands productive dialogue between cultures."*

**-Mike Quigley, U.S. Congressman**

*"CAIR-Chicago has provided a comprehensive array of invaluable services to the Muslim-American community. It has also facilitated important partnerships and civil rights advocacy opportunities for Muslim Americans throughout the Chicagoland area."*

**-Rahm Emanuel, Mayor of Chicago**

*"Illinois takes great pride in its vibrant Muslim community here in Chicago, and throughout the state...I salute the CAIR-Chicago chapter for their ongoing efforts to enhance the understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding."*

**-Bobby Rush, U.S. Congressman**

*"I salute CAIR-Chicago for their commitment to justice and equality for Muslim Americans...and all Americans. CAIR understands that in defending Muslim Americans against employment discrimination, prison abuse, hate crimes and citizenship delays they are also defending our American values for every American."*

**-Danny Davis, U.S. Congressman**

# *A note from our Executive Director*

---



*Above: Executive Director Ahmed Rehab, pictured with Outreach Coordinator Gerald Hankerson, poses with a Prophetic Leadership Award presented to him by ARISE Chicago.*

In its eight years of service, CAIR-Chicago has handled over 2,500 cases of anti-Muslim discrimination, conducted over one thousand mainstream media interviews and graduated over 400 interns.

Since day one, CAIR-Chicago's guiding light has been our unique organizational model of Professional Muslim Activism. This model combines corporate standards in all aspects of our technical work with the Islamic values of human care and social justice in our treatment of the issues.

CAIR-Chicago is an autonomous, grassroots, community-based organization. We have grown from a two-person volunteer staff into an institution served by 14 staff members and dozens of interns, and fueled exclusively by local community donations.

2012 saw continued success for CAIR-Chicago. We launched our own independent media in the form of [Chicagomonitor.com](http://Chicagomonitor.com) that publishes poignant pieces that cover issues often misreported or glossed over by the mainstream media. The writers are young talents we help cultivate into full-fledged writers.

We took a lead on combatting the wave of hate crimes that hit Illinois that happened to be timed after statements by a (now former) local congressman who implied that Muslims were the enemy within. We worked with the media, law enforcement, local affected communities, and partner organizations to ensure that Illinois can move closer to being hate free.



We were able to resolve key civil rights cases to the benefit of our clients including citizenship delay cases, mosque permit cases, and cases involving other discriminatory violations. We began the process of building out a brand new state-of-the-art center in downtown Chicago as the new home of Muslim activism serving this great city and state.

Our influence continues to expand from the local scene into the national and international scenes in terms of alliances, speaking engagements, and media representation. Our Civil Rights department has nurtured relationships with volunteer attorneys who assist our staff in further developing our legal clinic model, which aims to litigate cases in court without external assistance or third party costs.

In 2012, our representatives have been hosted dozens of times on networks such as NPR, FOX News, MSNBC, CNN, Al Jazeera, Deutsche Welle, CBS, NBC, ABC, WGN and others. We have brought a lucid Muslim perspective on pressing issues to the Chicago Tribune, the New York Times, the Chicago Sun-Times, the Washington Post and the Huffington Post among other newspapers and websites. Our staff has led panels and discussions at various universities, churches, mosques, and temples in Chicagoland and beyond.

We continue to run Muslim Youth Leadership Symposium workshops helping to provide direction and motivation for high school students to become exemplary citizens who positively contribute to the progress of their community and country.

Most importantly, CAIR-Chicago continues to be a rising force in civil rights defense and advocacy both in terms of public opinion and legal representation.

Please continue to read through this annual report for a detailed review of our work in the year 2012 and remember to visit [www.cairchicago.org](http://www.cairchicago.org) for more information. We hope that you will continue to support our services.

-Ahmed Rehab, Executive Director

“Hate is a self-addressed envelope.”

-CAIR-Chicago Executive Director, Ahmed Rehab



*Far left: Mohamed Abdelati, Operations Coordinator, speaks at a #MyJihad press conference held at CAIR-Chicago.*



*Left: Sufyan Sobel, Deputy Director, attends a CAIR-Chicago press conference on the plight of Rohingya Muslims in Southeast Asia.*

# CAIR-Chicago's Core Values

**Credibility:** Gain the trust and respect of all involved.

**Consistency:** Our level of motivation and productivity should not waiver with time. The attention given to the various areas of our work should be even.

**Professionalism:** Level-headed, objective, and presentable.

**Being Proactive:** Create programs that predict and preemptively challenge potential problems.

**Omnipresence:** Our presence and our programs should enjoy high exposure both with members of the Muslim community, the general public, the media, and government.

**Targeted/Focused Scope:** Well-defined problem areas and solutions.

**Transparency:** What you see is what you get.

**Efficiency:** No redundancies. Putting the right people in the right place at the right time.

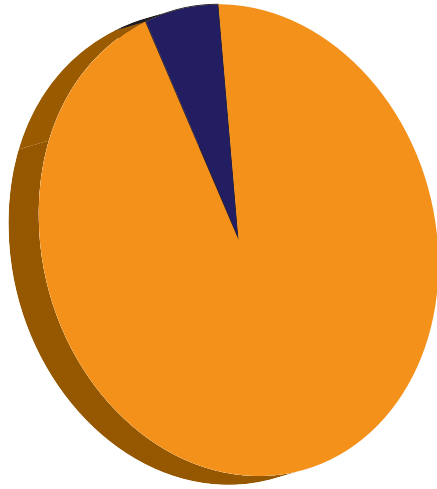
**Egalitarianism/Fair-mindedness:** Reach out to support non-Muslims who face similar grievances as our own, or who see similar values to our own being challenged.

**Accessibility:** Easy to find and reach whether by members of our community, or by members of the media.

**Sincerity:** What fuels our work is not personal ego or a hidden agenda, but a genuine desire to effect positive change.

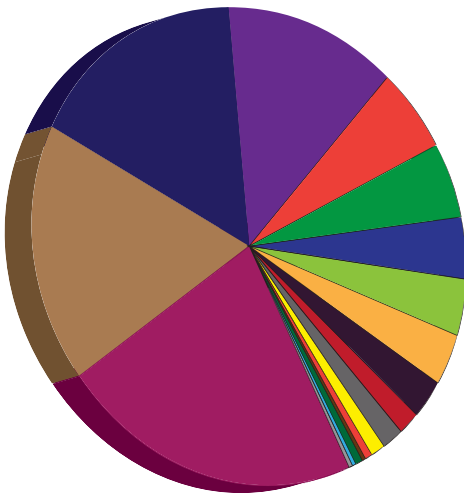


# 2012 Financial Summary: **Income**



Public Support	\$678,182.91
Legal Proceeds	\$42,851.34
Total	\$721,034.25

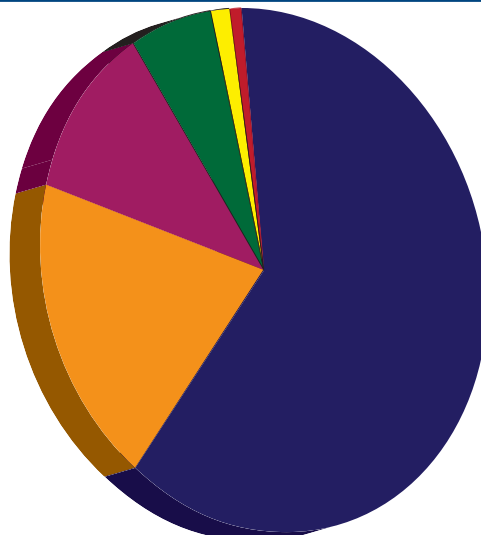
# 2012 Financial Summary: **Expenses by Program**



Civil Rights Expenses	\$183,242.44
Benefits & Insurance	\$79,284.70
Events & Fundraising	\$73,514.49
Office Lease & Utilities	\$58,767.63
Communications/Media	\$57,000.00
Administrative	\$50,224.00
Outreach Development	\$43,000.00
Research	\$25,000.00
Facilities & Equipment	\$23,786.97

Office Supplies & Expenses	\$14,474.63
Marketing Material	\$7,453.38
Travel & Meetings	\$6,054.85
Bank Charges	\$5,798.54
Meals & Entertainment	\$4,623.48
Organizational Support	\$3,308.23
Accounting Fees	\$3,200.00
Postage	\$2,518.43
Contract Services	\$2,383.78
Total	\$643,635.55

# 2012 Financial Summary: **Expenses by Category**



Salaries/Benefits/Payroll Taxes	\$396,513.61
Business/Operational Expenses	\$120,331.81
Events & Fundraising	\$73,514.49
Litigation Expenses	\$39,013.53
Travel & Meeting Expenses	\$10,678.33
Contract Services	\$3,583.78
Total	\$643,635.55

# The Prison Project

---

Despite what some may think, civil rights do not end in prison. In 2012, CAIR-Chicago continued its efforts in addressing prisoners' rights through "The Prison Project."

The Prison Project was first initiated by CAIR-Chicago several years ago. Its main goals were to secure the rights of Muslim inmates to practice their religion freely, and to ensure inmates are treated humanely.

It began when complaints were filed with CAIR-Chicago's Civil Rights Department by Muslim prisoners, mainly men, who were continually harassed, humiliated, and mistreated by prison authorities. Reports of their harassment included deprivation of medicine and being held in solitary confinement for months on end. The discrimination furthered to a level where the prisoners' religious practices and ability to worship was being severely limited by prison authorities.

The scope of the Prison Project includes working with prison administrators to halt the harassment and discrimination toward inmates and working to resolve issues of religious practice. For example, Muslim inmates should be offered halal prepared items, just as Jewish inmates have Kosher-prepared items on the menu. Muslim inmates should be allowed to observe Eid, just as Christian inmates celebrated Christmas and Jewish inmates celebrated Passover.

During the past year and a half, Claudia Bertacchi, a Civil Rights Law Clerk, has been the main coordinator of the Prison Project. Bertacchi primarily focuses on the discriminatory practices prisoners face with their diet and religious practices, and spends time engaged in written correspondence with inmates to ensure they are receiving the proper attention from prison authorities. Currently, Bertacchi is looking into ways in which halal meat can be provided to the Muslim inmates.

For the first time in the project's history, volunteers organized an Eid ul Fitr feast for the inmates in 2012. Bertacchi, like the team of volunteers who prepared food donations, feels extraordinarily proud of the success they achieved in 2012. "I don't think any of this would have been possible without the people who volunteered their time, money and energy. This was really a community effort," said Bertacchi.

Civil Rights Summer 2012 Law Clerk Abubakr Meah facilitated and coordinated the food donations for the inmates at Stateville. Meah is involved with community organizing and, along with Bertacchi, had materials sent to the prison. Together, with the help of Amberina Khan, a long time Bridgeview resident and active volunteer, they also organized the Eid-ul-Fitr feast.

Meah worked hard to promote the Prison Project within his local community in Bridgeview, IL to garner attention and resources for the often times forgotten members of our society. "I could not believe how much they gave, how much they were willing to give, and how much people are willing to help others, especially for those that are less fortunate," said Meah.

In retrospect, Meah thought the dedication to help the prisoners symbolized a larger trend within Islam and the local Muslim community. "We all make mistakes," said Meah. "But in the month of Ramadan, Islam grants grace and mercy even to those who make mistakes against society, or those who breach societal norms. The project highlights how the religion of Islam is giving and that the Muslim community is giving."

Khan, who had previously initiated a food project involving cooking for mosques in the inner city, led a group of women in a dedicated effort to cook, prepare and serve meals for the Eid ul Fitr feast for the prisoners at Stateville.

"We want to continue to do this," said Khan regarding her interest in continuing to work for the project. "We want to do it for all prisoners."

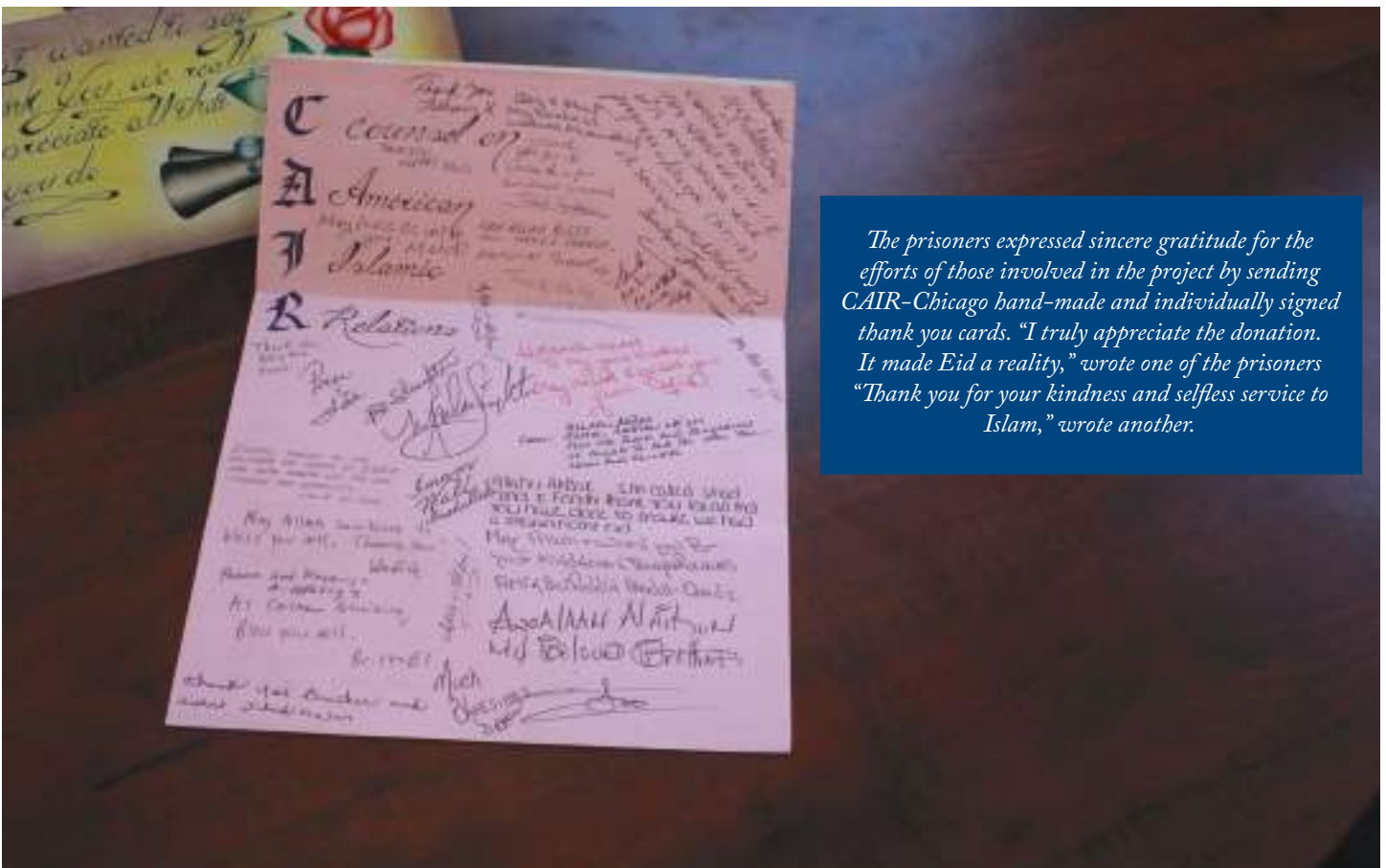
Having witnessed how the project was a success and how deeply it impacted both the community of volunteers and the prisoners, Meah also says that this is a project that he will continue to work for.

The Prison Project is an endeavor that aligned with the mission of CAIR-Chicago to defend civil rights, promote tolerance and fight bigotry. The project was a remarkable opportunity to help those that many people write off as burdens to society. Through the project, CAIR-Chicago mobilized one community, served another community and demonstrated its commitment to addressing the civil rights needs of any member of the Muslim community, no matter how marginal.





*Above: Claudia Bertacci and Abubakr Meah, pictured with donations collected by the Mosque Foundation Bridgeview community, helped to coordinate the distribution of food, prayer rugs, Qur'ans, tasbeehs and Islamic literature to Muslim inmates.*



# Civil Rights Department



*Above: Staff Attorney Rabya Khan joined CAIR-Chicago's staff in 2011 having formerly served as a volunteer attorney.*

Throughout 2012, the Civil Rights Department of CAIR-Chicago continued its critical work of advocating against discrimination of Muslims in America, litigating when necessary to fully protect our civil liberties. Litigation of significant cases, including on behalf of dozens of Somali Muslim former meat factory workers and the Irshad Learning Center, continued in 2012. Currently, over 190 cases are open and being actively worked on by the Department. Litigation Director Kevin Vodak expanded the successes of the Department's Citizenship Delay Project by securing a court order overturning the denial of citizenship for Atmane Bekri, a Moroccan who has resided in the United States for 17 years. In addition to Mr. Bekri, CAIR-Chicago's work ensured that 12 more individuals became U.S. citizens in 2012.

The Department also made substantial strides in its Prison Project, facilitating meals for inmates during Eid observances, comparable to the donations provided to inmates of other faiths. On a policy making level, the Department assisted in the passage of the City of Chicago's anti-hate resolution, continues to work on passing a similar resolution in the Illinois legislature, and submitted congressional testimony on racial profiling and hate crimes.

*"We take a multifaceted approach to combatting hate against Muslim Americans and other minorities – educating, policy making, and when necessary, litigation." – Rabya Khan, Staff Attorney*

*Right: Kevin Vodak, Litigation Director, presents at "Guilty by Activism: The Use of Grand Juries Punishing Dissent" on March 15th, 2012.*





# Civil Rights Department Ongoing Cases

Atmane Bekri, applied for citizenship in 2006, after residing in the United States for more than ten years. After his application was delayed for more than three years, Bekri decided to seek legal assistance from CAIR-Chicago. The Civil Rights Department filed a formal complaint in 2010 in an attempt to end the delay in granting Mr. Bekri citizenship. Litigation Director Kevin Vodak helped resolve Bekri's case through a formal hearing in which Mr. Bekri was deemed fully eligible for naturalization. He was sworn in as a U.S. citizen on May 22, 2012.

After being appointed the first and only Muslim police chaplain in Illinois State Police history, Imam Kifah Mustafa was abruptly dismissed based on unfounded allegations made by a prominent Islamophobe on the Internet. CAIR-Chicago filed a lawsuit against the Illinois State Police on behalf of Mustapha, alleging discrimination based on race, religion and national origin. The case, which began in 2009, has not concluded.

After filing suit on behalf of the Irshad Learning Center against DuPage County for its denial of a special use permit for the learning center in 2010, the Department succeeded in withstanding the County's attempt to dismiss the case. Litigation Director Kevin Vodak continued working on the case through 2012 and filed a Motion for Summary Judgment seeking to obtain a court order finding that ILC is entitled to use its property as a religious institution. We await Judge Pallmeyer's ruling on this motion.



*Above: Kevin Vodak and Atmane Bekri celebrate after the latter attained his citizenship.*

*"The ISP hired Imam Kifah Mustapha, trained him, then terminated him due to the allegations of a blogger."*



*Above: Imam Kifah Mustapha has turned to CAIR-Chicago for legal counsel.*

*"We believe the County Board and other officials imposed a higher standard for the ILC as a Muslim religious institution."*

*-Litigation Director, Kevin Vodak*

*Left: Members of Irshad Learning Center meet over dinner.*



# Civil Rights Accomplishments

- The Civil Rights Department has handled over 2600 cases of anti-Muslim discrimination since 2006.
- The Civil Rights Department has directly assisted more than 220 Muslim immigrants to become naturalized as U.S. citizens after facing extensive delays, and has advised more than 500 immigrants on their naturalization applications.
- Hundreds of immigrants have benefitted from the Department's work with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to speed up processing times on petitions for immigration benefits.
- In 2009, CAIR-Chicago was the first Muslim civil rights organization to ever successfully litigate an employment discrimination case, obtaining a large compensatory damages award for a corrections officer during a jury trial.
- In the past five years, CAIR-Chicago has negotiated the payment of over \$700,000 to clients of resolved discrimination cases.
- More than 120 individuals have been advised by the Department in addressing contacts by FBI agents.
- As a part of the ongoing Prison Project, the Department has also provided more than 170 inmates with legal advice.



*Above: Somali Muslim factory workers gather at their plant in Grand Island, Nebraska.*

In 2010, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) found that JBS USA had discriminated against its Somali Muslim factory workers at their plant in Grand Island, Nebraska based on their religion. Besides refusing to accommodate a prayer break for the employees during the month of Ramadan, company management forced employees to sign written promises not to pray during work hours and terminated employees that rallied for their rights and used their personal break time to pray. Staff Attorney Rabya Khan has been working diligently with the EEOC and Vincent Powers and Associates law firm to prove the claims of the Somali Muslim employees represented by CAIR-Chicago. The EEOC, Vincent Powers and Associates, and CAIR-Chicago continued to be engaged in litigation throughout 2012.

*Far Right: Deputy Director Sufyan Sobel moderates a panel on the Arab Spring in 2012.*

*Right: Elena Markova, a constitutional law professor from Moscow, Russia joined the CAIR-Chicago team in April 2012 as a Legislative Fellow.*



# Civil Rights Department



*Above: Staff Attorney Rabya Khan poses at the Advancing Justice Conference with her fellow panelists from the “Vincent Chin—The Next 30 Years: Anti-Asian Violence Today” afternoon plenary.*

## Civil Rights in **YOUR** Community

- Staff Attorney Rabya Khan conducted eleven (11) Know Your Rights presentations for community members, youth groups, students, and teachers, focusing on educating individuals regarding their constitutional rights with the police and the FBI.
- Litigation Director Kevin Vodak was a panelist at the “Guilty by Activism: The Use of Grand Juries: Punishing Dissent” event held at CAIR-Chicago.
- The Department hosted Legislative Fellow Elena Markova, a constitutional law professor from Moscow, Russia, in April 2012, familiarizing her with the United States legal system to assist her research on issues of religious freedom in Russia.
- Staff Attorney Rabya Khan was a speaker at the “Abrahamic Faiths Intersection on Restorative Justice” event at DePaul University.
- Staff Attorney Rabya Khan presented at the Employment Rights Law Section at the American Association for Justice’s annual conference.
- Litigation Director Kevin Vodak attended a round-table meeting at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission facilitated by General Counsel David Lopez in August 2012, and has been participating in a coalition of immigrant rights and anti-discrimination organizations to update EEOC policies pertaining to charges filed by Muslim individuals.
- Staff Attorney Rabya Khan presented at Spiritual Life Council meeting at Elmhurst College speaking on the Muslim response to hate.
- Staff Attorney Rabya Khan was a panelist on the Vincent Chin Plenary at the Advancing Justice conference, a national civil rights and social justice conference that aims to bring together a diverse group of stakeholder in one place to address a broad range of issues facing the Asian American and Pacific Islander community.
- Litigation Director Kevin Vodak and Staff Attorney Rabya Khan presented on “Strategic Advocacy for Muslim and Immigrant Communities with Law Enforcement” at the National Legal Aid and Defender Association’s Annual Conference.

# Civil Rights Department Cases

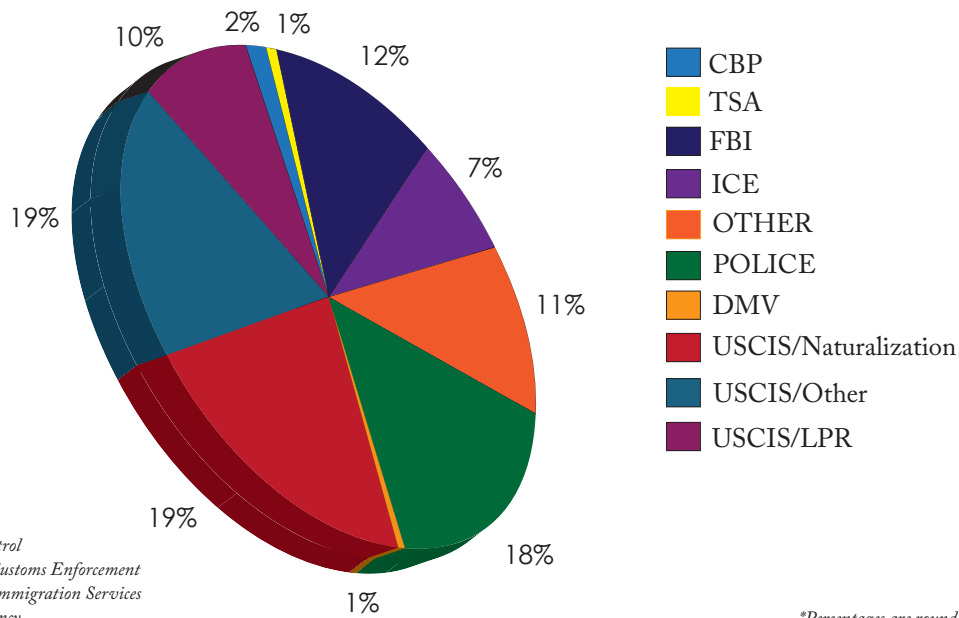
In 2012:

- 372 cases of discrimination were reported
- 53 cases were resolved
- 9 lawsuits were filed

\*Over 200 cases are currently open and being actively pursued by CAIR-Chicago

## Government Cases Reported

Total Cases: 158

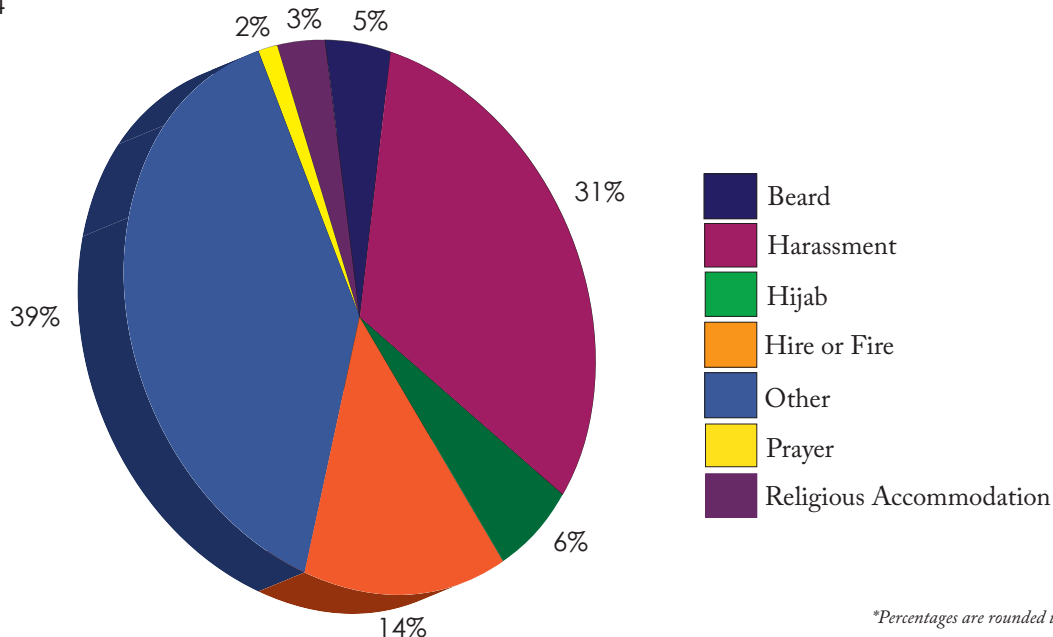


\*Percentages are rounded to nearest whole percent

\*CBP: Customs and Border Patrol  
 \*\*ICE: U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement  
 \*\*\*USCIS: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
 \*\*\*\*LPR: Legal Permanent Residency

## Employment Cases Reported

Total Cases: 64



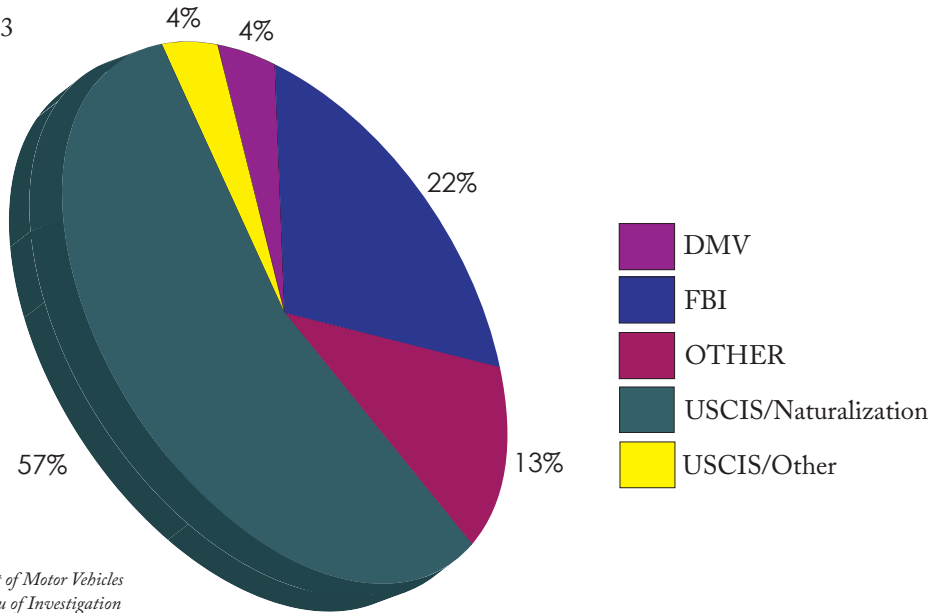
\*Percentages are rounded to nearest whole percent



Due to the large amount of resources committed to previously filed claims, as well as our strategy of selecting only the strongest cases or critical issues for litigation, the number of lawsuits filed by the Department in 2012 has remained low. Despite that, the Civil Rights Department at CAIR-Chicago has seen a number of successes throughout the year in its various other casework. Our Litigation Director and Staff Attorney have worked tirelessly to resolve these and a number of other cases ranging from employment discrimination to immigration and public accommodation. The Civil Rights Department's goals for 2013 build off of past successes and focus on greater development of equal opportunity for American Muslims. We hope to continue in the fight to protect the civil liberties guaranteed by our nation's Constitution and look forward to your continued support.

## Government Cases Resolved

Total Cases: 23

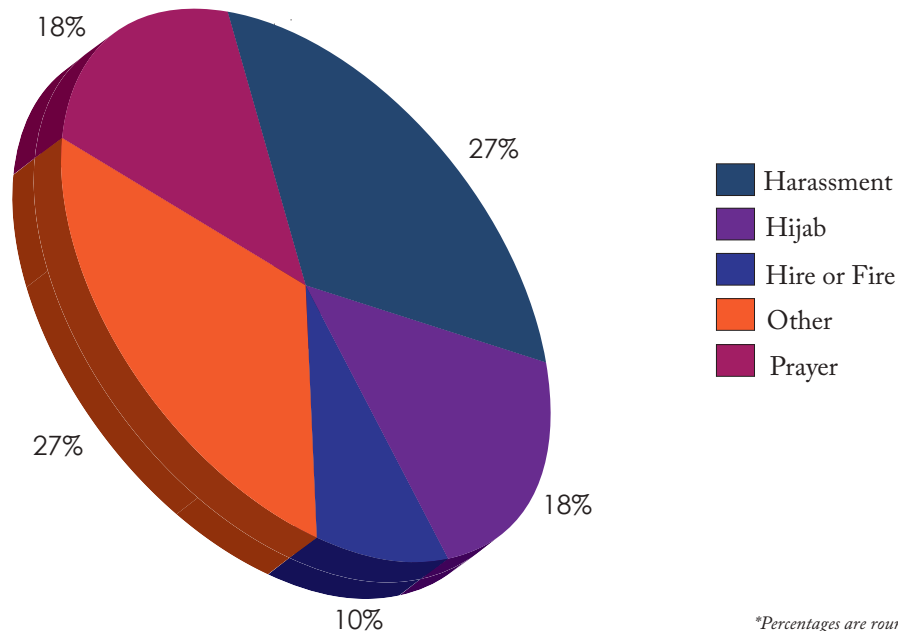


\*DMV: Department of Motor Vehicles  
 \*\*FBI: Federal Bureau of Investigation  
 \*\*\*USCIS: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

\*Percentages are rounded to nearest whole percent

## Employment Cases Resolved

Total Cases: 11



\*Percentages are rounded to nearest whole percent

# Responding to Hate

---

Last summer, an unprecedented number of hate attacks occurred in the Illinois area. Most notably, a mass shooting occurred at a Sikh temple in Oak Creek, WI on August 5, 2012. Soon thereafter, three more incidents took place nearer to Chicago.

On August 10, 2012, two air rifle shots were fired at the Muslim Education Center (MEC) mosque in Morton Grove during prayer services. The shooter was arrested and is currently being prosecuted in criminal court in Cook County for four felonies.

On August 12, 2012, an acid bomb was thrown at the College Preparatory School of America (CPSA) during prayer services.

On August 17, 2012, the grave of a prominent Palestinian Muslim American activist in Evergreen Cemetery was desecrated with hate graffiti including the words “Raghead Killer” and insults to Islam’s Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him). This gravesite has been targeted and desecrated on a number of occasions.

CAIR-Chicago Staff Attorney Rabya Khan contacted the local and federal law enforcement authorities to ensure these attacks were being investigated. Khan also contacted the staff members at the institutions to confirm that law enforcement contacted them.

Upon being notified of these three incidents, CAIR-Chicago’s Executive Director, Ahmed Rehab, and Communications Coordinator, Aymen Abdel Halim, immediately responded via the media to alert the Muslim community of these crimes and to encourage them to be alert and notify any suspicious behavior to local authorities.

Hate crimes often go unreported due to fear or lack of awareness, so in an effort to encourage community members to be more responsive, Khan has developed and conducted Know Your Rights presentations at several Islamic high schools and middle schools for students and staff, as well as mosques, youth groups and community organizations. These presentations reminded participants to contact law enforcement in the event of a hate attack to ensure it is documented and investigated, and that the perpetrators are fully prosecuted.

CAIR-Chicago continued its advocacy on anti-hate education and awareness, ultimately achieving formal recognition by policymaking officials. By working with the South Asian American Policy & Research Institute (SAAPRI) and Alderman Ameya Pawar (of the 47th Ward), CAIR-Chicago assisted in the passing of a resolution in the City of Chicago that specifically condemns attacks of hate and violence against minorities, including Sikh American and Muslim American communities, and initiates measures to promote tolerance.

In September, CAIR-Chicago staff members and interns attended the City of Chicago City Council meeting where the resolution passed unanimously. The invocation at the commencement of this meeting was given by Mr. Lakhwant Singh Komal, a local Sikh American religious leader.

Prior to the rise of attacks against Muslims and other minorities, Senator Dick Durbin presided over a hearing to discuss a bill that would seek to eliminate racial, ethnic, and religious profiling by law enforcement.

CAIR-Chicago’s testimony, drafted by Litigation Director Kevin Vodak and also prepared by Rabya Khan, highlighted the failures of law enforcement to properly identify criminals through the use of race-based techniques.

Staff Attorney Rabya Khan also organized a public viewing at CAIR-Chicago of the September 19, 2012 Senate hearing on “Hate Crimes and the Threat of Domestic Extremism” – chaired by U.S. Senator Dick Durbin, which took place following the tragedy at the Gurdwara in Oak Creek, Wisconsin. The event was co-sponsored by the Asian American Institute, the Indian American Bar Association and the Muslim Bar Association.

Throughout 2012, CAIR-Chicago demonstrated its commitment to addressing hate and bigotry in multifaceted ways; at the community level, by working with media to report these incidents and to educate the Muslim community on its rights, on a local level, by seeking to strengthen relationships with media while building coalitions with various minority communities, and on a national scale, by getting politically involved with fighting for equality and justice.



*Above: CAIR-Chicago Executive Director Ahmed Rehab and Staff Attorney Rabya Khan, pictured with Alderman Ameya Pawar and members of the Indian Bar Association, participate in the community commemoration of Illinois House Resolution 1193 at the SRS Gurdwara Sahib in Palatine, Illinois in December of 2012. The resolution addresses hate attacks on religious minorities, including Sikh Americans and Muslim Americans, and denounces hateful political rhetoric.*

“CAIR-Chicago is not alone in the fight against bigotry. Hate affects us all, no matter our ethnicity. Side-by-side with our **brothers and sisters** of other faiths, we are proud to work towards a society and a future that is **hate free.**”

*- Sufyan Sobel, Deputy Director*



# Outreach Department



*Above: Gerald Hankerson, Outreach Coordinator, joined CAIR-Chicago in 2007. He has over fifteen years of experience working in youth development and intercultural engagement.*

The Outreach Department aims to educate and build bridges between Muslim-Americans and diverse communities in the greater Chicago metro region by establishing partnerships with other civil rights and advocacy organizations, and bolstering CAIR-Chicago's ability to serve its constituents in Chicago's Muslim communities. The Outreach Department leads CAIR-Chicago's youth leadership programs, internship and volunteer activist programs, interfaith and inter-cultural initiatives, and educational seminars.

In 2012, the Outreach Department renewed its connection with communities throughout greater Chicagoland and Illinois. By increasing opportunities for immersions into professionalism and activism, CAIR-Chicago ensured that its mission to build mutual understanding was not limited to only Muslim Americans, but to all who people who believe in the right to live with dignity and equal opportunities.

*“We empower youth to guide their communities from the margins to the mainstream.”*

*-Gerald Hankerson, Outreach Coordinator*

## Interfaith Engagement



*Above: CAIR-Chicago's Ahmed Rehab and Rabya Khan join South Asian Sikh groups to recognize anti-hate resolution.*

The Outreach department continues to hold educational lectures, workshops and dialogues and often works in interfaith partnerships to engage community members.

CAIR-Chicago remains an active partner of the Jewish-Muslim Community Building Initiative (JMCBI), which hosts interreligious community events and study sessions on holy texts. One of the initiative's most successful events is at Café Finjan, which regularly draws hundreds for evenings of creative performances and presentation of visual arts. The annual "Iftar in the Synagogue" garnered three venues simultaneously to break bread and pray with over 1,000 attendees combined in Evanston, Chicago Lawn and Lakeview neighborhoods.

Following the tragic massacre at a Sikh Temple in Wisconsin, CAIR-Chicago partnered with the South Asian South Asian American Policy & Research Institute (SAAPRI), and Alderman Ameya Pekar of the Chicago City Council on a resolution against hate crimes toward Sikh and Muslim Americans.



*Above: Gerald Hankerson attends Taste of Chicago with part of CAIR-Chicago's thirty person summer internship class.*



*Above: CAIR-Chicago hosts its fourth annual Taste of Ramadan cook-off and iftar for family and friends in August of 2012.*



# Outreach Department

## Muslim Youth Leadership Symposium



*Above:*  
Gerald Hankerson,  
Outreach Coordinator  
teaching positive activism.

The Muslim Youth Leadership Symposium initiative ([www.mylschicago.org](http://www.mylschicago.org)) is a year-long leadership training program designed to provide young American-Muslims with a proactive agenda for positive activism. MYLS aims to empower youth to guide their communities from the margin to the mainstream and foster a healthy American-Muslim identity that fits comfortably within pluralistic American society. The program is focused on serving high school students and offers several after-school workshops throughout the year that are designed to help students develop key leadership skills.

In 2012, MYLS-Chicago celebrated its fifth anniversary with its ninth symposium, “Five Years of Devotion: Mind, Body, and Soul”. The event focused on developing meaningful citizenship based on personal reflections and experiences, embodying individuality and community through good deeds, and charging every part of the self in order to strengthen the nation and world. Returning to the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) as its hosting site, MYLS-Chicago was honored to have one of our illustrious Muslim members of the U.S. Congress share his insight and wisdom, the Honorable André Carson of Indiana. Most of the other speakers also were CAIR-Chicago staff and intern alumni.

*“In 2012, MYLS-Chicago celebrated its fifth anniversary with its ninth symposium, “Five Years of Devotion: Mind, Body, and Soul.” – Gerald Hankerson, Outreach Coordinator*

**The MYLS participants had the privilege of meeting with the following distinguished guest speakers:**

- The Honorable André Carson, Indiana’s 7th Congressional District, U.S. House of Representatives
- Imam Sultan Rahman Muhammad, Mosque Maryam; Muhammad University of Islam
- Caroline Swinney, MUPP, Director of Community Relations, University of Illinois at Chicago
- Omer Mozaffar, Instructor of Islamic Theology, The University of Chicago & Loyola University Chicago
- Reema Ahmad, Manager of Field Operations & Civic Engagement Programs, Asian American Institute
- Shahzeen Karim, J.D., Attorney at Law
- Haadee Siddiqui, Co-Captain of Mock Trial Team, DePaul University



*Above: Gerald Hankerson meets with Congressman André Carson, Imam Sultan Mobamed, and Ndidì Okakpu at a symposium event.*



# MYLS Testimonials

*"MYLS-Chicago motivated me to a higher level of thinking and activism. I am energized and want to take our ideas straight to the community."*

*-Abdullah Ansari, Naperville Central H.S.*

*"Between the speakers and the activities, MYLS-Chicago strongly motivated me to really make my program a reality, and to never give up in [accomplishing] my dreams despite all the obstacles."*

*-Basim Elsalymeh, Nequa Valley H.S.*

*"It taught me how to meet new people and work well with others. I also learned how to develop an action plan."*

*-Sumaiyah Cummings, Aqsa School*

*"I feel very motivated [and] committed to the project discussed with my group. I feel optimistic about the future of [our] Muslim Ummah and the society at large."*

*-Janan Badier, Universal School*

*"I learned a lot about service...how actually important it is to get the Muslim voice in government...we should start being active..."*

*-Sumaiyah Cummings, Aqsa School*

*"The symposium refreshed my deen and reminded me how easily we could grow in our community, for the bettering of the people around us."*

*-Aya Shalabi, Aqsa School*



*Above: A group of MYLS high school students collaborate creative ideas during a symposium event.*

# Outreach Department

## Internship & Volunteer Activist Program

CAIR-Chicago is indebted to the interns, externs and volunteer activists (VAs) who assist our staff to empower, mobilize, and engage our communities. The Outreach Department recruited over 150 volunteer activists, utilizing uniquely varied backgrounds, skills and professional interests to serve the communities of greater Chicagoland and throughout Illinois.

With 73 individuals contributing their skills and energy toward the organization's efforts, CAIR-Chicago boasted its largest class of interns and externs in 2012. The year marked our program crossing its number of alumni to over 450 activists since 2005.

Our office also welcomed activists through special programs. For a second consecutive year, CAIR-Chicago also hosted three externs from Indian University's Hoosier Externship Program. Six students from DePaul University contributed a combined 120 hours in our office as part of their service learning course. Most distinctively, the office hosted two legislative fellows through the U.S. State Department from Egypt and Russia in the 2012 Professional Fellowship Program, a partnership with Citizen Bridges International.



*Above: Claudia Bertacchi, a CAIR-Chicago Law Clerk, works diligently on the Prison Project for the Civil Rights Department.*

*“Interns are crucial in assisting our staff to empower, mobilize and engage with our communities.” – Noor Salahuddin, Office Coordinator*



*Above: Khaled Zarzour, a CAIR-Chicago Communications Intern, sometimes serves as an interpreter for the litigation team.*





*Above: CAIR-Chicago hosts Wesleyan University School for service learning in media activism.*

## Public Education and Academia

CAIR-Chicago staff members from various departments were invited to speak at colleges across the United States, from Chicago-Kent Law School to Washington University in St. Louis to Zaytuna College in Berkeley, California. The Outreach Department specifically presented at Little Village-Lawndale H.S. and Francis Parker School, while our office hosted classes from Universal School, Carthage College and DePaul University. Our office also welcomed Ohio Wesleyan University and Aqsa School students during their spring breaks for service learning in media activism.

CAIR-Chicago partnered with Amnesty International-Midwest Region's office to highlight international issues where U.S. foreign policy could have positive impact. The NATO Shadow Summit on Afghan Women's Rights event brought 300 attendees to highlight the obstacles and undaunting efforts to ensure Afghan girls and women have equal access to education, health care and civic participation. Both organizations partnered again to protest the human rights abuses in Syria. CAIR-Chicago later held a candlelight vigil where over 100 attendees gathered in Grant Park to honor the Syrians massacred and to stand in solidarity.

Following some incidents of Islamophobia in certain suburban areas, CAIR-Chicago was invited by Mayor Rodney Craig from Village of Hanover Park to partner with its Cultural Inclusion and Diversity Committee to present at a forum entitled, "Who Is My Muslim Neighbor?"



*Above: Leena Saleh, Communications Coordinator, presents at an event at CAIR-Chicago entitled Hungry for Justice.*



*Above: Sufyan Sobel, Deputy Director, moderates a workshop for DePaul University students.*



# Outreach Department

## Civic Engagement



*Above: CAIR-Chicago's interns train in how to help register people for early voting.*



*Above: CAIR-Chicago welcomes guests to view a presidential debate in its gallery.*

Since 2010, Outreach has led civic engagement and mobilization efforts in order to educate and mobilize community members to respond appropriately to policies that affect all Americans.

CAIR-Chicago was quite active during the 2012 election year. It partnered with the Asian American Institute to help register new voters at the Downtown Islamic Center. The office also hosted a presidential debate viewing event in its gallery. The week before Election Day, CAIR-Chicago hosted an Election Poll Monitoring Training that was co-sponsored by the Indian American Bar Association and the Muslim Bar Association. The elections season ended with a voter guide produced for the general elections, reflecting political perspectives, issues and concerns of all Illinoisans.

Outreach, along with partners from the Illinois Coalition of Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR), met with Congressman Luis Gutierrez (D-4th) and Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel to champion comprehensive immigration reform. Lastly, throughout the year the office produced action alerts to mobilize community members to urge their Congressional leaders to protect civil liberties and potential erosion of justice toward certain groups.

## Mosque and Community Outreach



*Above: CAIR-Chicago staff delivers Friday khutbahs at the Downtown Islamic Center (DIC).*

CAIR-Chicago staff delivered Friday khutbahs at some of Chicago's and other states' largest mosques in an effort to promote key civic and humanitarian ideals fostered in Islamic teachings. These khutbahs serve to bridge the mosque audience with the resources that CAIR-Chicago offers.

The fourth annual Taste of Ramadan iftar brought a record number of more than 500 friends and supporters to attendance with nearly 50 dishes, desserts, and beverages reflecting cuisines from around the world. The event, covered by major local broadcast and newspapers, was made possible by donations from the Midamar Corporation of Des Moines, IA who provided zabiha meat and poultry, and Mama Maria Pizza of Des Plaines who contributed over 50 delicious pizzas.

*“We are dedicated to maintaining strong relationships with mosques and their congregations in order to apprise them of their civil rights and duties.” - Ahmed Rehab, Executive Director*



*Above: A group of Jewish and Muslim musicians perform together at the annual Cafe Finjan. CAIR-Chicago co-founded this interfaith arts exchange event aimed at bringing Jewish and Muslims artists together to foster relationships and celebrate shared experiences.*

## Outreach in YOUR Community

- At the 2012 Chicago Summer Institute, Outreach representatives led a media activism workshop to help educate public high school teachers on Muslim American issues and current events.
- North Park University named Outreach Coordinator Gerald Hankerson a “Man of Excellence.”
- Outreach Coordinator Gerald Hankerson presented “Practical Skills for Transforming Society: Integrating Faith, Diversity & Social Action” for the Philippine Youth Leadership Program, an international exchange initiative organized by Northern Illinois University.
- Aqsa School students visited CAIR-Chicago to attend a media activism workshop to learn how to critique media portrayals of Islam and Muslims.
- A multinational, Middle East Delegation met with CAIR-Chicago.
- Gerald Hankerson discussed Islam and Muslims at a cultural forum hosted by Village of Hanover Park
- CAIR-Chicago volunteers, interns and staff called 800 registered voters of the newly drawn 8th Congressional District to remind them of early voting and the serious threat of Islamophobia present in their jurisdiction.
- CAIR-Chicago, along with the Illinois Coalition of Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR), helped to register 5,000 out of 13,000 eligible undocumented youth and young adults for the DREAM Act— legislation that will aid undocumented immigrants to seek U.S. citizenship through education or national service.

# Internship and Volunteer Activist Program

From its inception, CAIR-Chicago sought budding professionals and eager activists from high schools and colleges to invigorate its civil rights and advocacy for the Muslim community in Illinois. Each year, numerous people from around the world come participate in one of three coveted programs to help CAIR-Chicago work towards its mission of defending civil rights, promoting tolerance and fighting bigotry.

CAIR-Chicago's programs all encourage a spirit of "professional activism" by focusing on cultivating an activist mindset while also highlighting the need for professional grooming and crucial insight for the real world. The Internship and Externship Program (IEP) and Volunteer Activist Program (VAP) at CAIR-Chicago offer eager students and budding activists a great opportunity to learn, interact, and grow in a friendly and diverse environment. Through partnerships with other organizations and initiatives, CAIR-Chicago also offers prestigious fellowships, including the New American Democracy Project (NADP) for voter registration organizers, and the renowned Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI) fellowship for recent law school graduates studying for the state bar exam.

With 73 individuals contributing their skills and energy toward the organization's efforts, CAIR-Chicago boasted its largest class of interns, externs, and fellows in 2012. The year marked our program crossing a milestone of 458 alumni since 2005. Additionally, 22 volunteer activists regularly boosted our day-to-day tasks, accounting for yet another new record. The office hosted two legislative fellows through the U.S. State Department from Egypt and Russia in the 2012-2013 Professional Fellowship Program, a partnership with Citizen Bridges International.

William von Schrader, a 2012 Political Science graduate from DePaul University, joined CAIR-Chicago that same year as a Government Affairs Extern. "IEP has been a really good program—compared to

other internships in the past, this is the most inclusive experience. "At my other positions I was treated like temporary labor," recalls the St. Louis native. "I was really pleased to learn that I contributed policy research and analysis for mass consumption by not only Muslim Americans but all people living in the U.S. -- I didn't expect that. I'm affecting people's perspectives on issues."

William was previously an intern in the United Kingdom's parliament, and is awaiting his assignment as a new Peace Corps volunteer in 2014. "I've never been asked to do meaningless work;" he says of his time at CAIR-Chicago. "Everything has a purpose to it. Everything I do contributes to the organization's mission."

Another DePaul alum, Kaitlin Taylor, was a Government Affairs Intern in Winter-Spring 2012. "As an intern at CAIR-Chicago, I worked extensively on the 2012 Election Guide, which allowed me to refine my skills as a designer, editor, researcher and project manager," says the current Senior Communications Officer at American University of Iraq-Sulaimani. "I use those skills every day in my current job as I manage the publications, website, photography, and social media strategy for the entire university. I'm grateful that I had the opportunity to work with such a friendly and supportive team at CAIR-Chicago."



*Above: William von Schrader, Government Affairs Extern, joined the CAIR-Chicago team in 2012.*





*Above: CAIR-Chicago interns receive their Certificate of Appreciation at the end of the summer session.*

“I’ve never been asked to do meaningless work, everything has a **purpose to it**. Everything I do contributes to the organization’s mission.”

*– William von Schrader, Government Affairs Extern*

# Communications Department



*Above: Leena Saleh, Communications Coordinator, joined CAIR-Chicago in 2011.*



*Above: Communications Coordinators Maryam Arain and Ambreen Zuberi at an event in Millennium Park in downtown Chicago.*

For the Communications Department, this year represented another period of solid growth and progress in executing our strategy of providing accurate and diverse portrayals of Islam and Muslims to the public while challenging negative and unreliable portrayals through various multimedia, marketing, and public relations efforts. To ensure that the mainstream Muslim voices are presented in public discourse, CAIR-Chicago's Communications Department develops and maintains relationships with mainstream media outlets by organizing press conferences and issuing dozens of press releases and media advisories.

The department serves as a leading resource for producers, editors, and journalists, and regularly provides media professionals with research and expert analysis to help them understand the nuances and complexities of the Muslim community and Islamic faith. The Communications Department also monitors mainstream media coverage of Islam and Muslims, and responds to it by producing powerful analyses that analyze and critique negative and misinformed portrayals while praising and guiding the efforts of those who seek to present more fair, accurate and diverse depictions of the Islam and Muslims.

Additionally, the department works closely with the Chicagoland community and presents lectures, cultural sensitivity trainings, and educational seminars at colleges, universities, government agencies, and private companies across Illinois. Covering a wide range of topics, Communications conducts original research, releases public reports, delivers presentations on the state of media coverage, and produces the latest in multimedia works in the form of audio, video, graphics, web and social media.



*Above: Communications Coordinator Aymen Abdel Halim presents on a panel about media activism.*





*Above: Communication Coordinators Maryam Arain and Ambreen Zuberi present a media activism workshop for students of Al-Aqsa School.*

“Defending the civil liberties of American Muslims requires actively exercising our first amendment rights and promoting mainstream Muslims voices in the media.”’

*- Aymen Abdel Halim, Communications Coordinator*

## Lectures, Workshops and Training Sessions

The Communications Department led numerous lectures and workshops for community leaders, students, mosques, and organizations. These sessions trained participants on how to engage the media and become more effective activists and community spokespersons. CAIR-Chicago teaches future journalists and news producers how to report on culturally sensitive issues and avoid generalizations and stereotypes.



*Above: Communication Coordinator Leena Saleh presents a lecture on Media and Islam.*

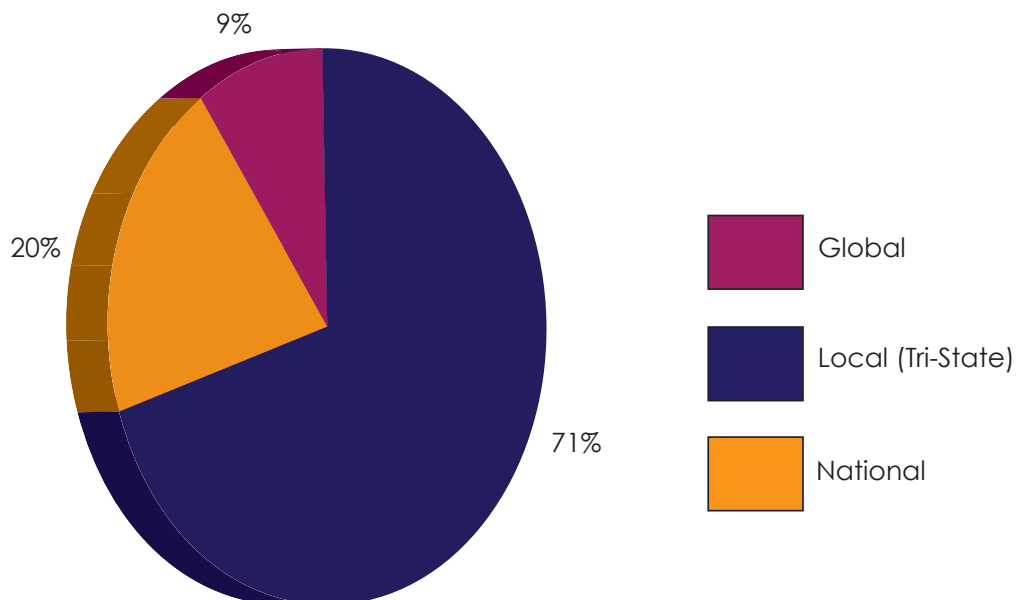
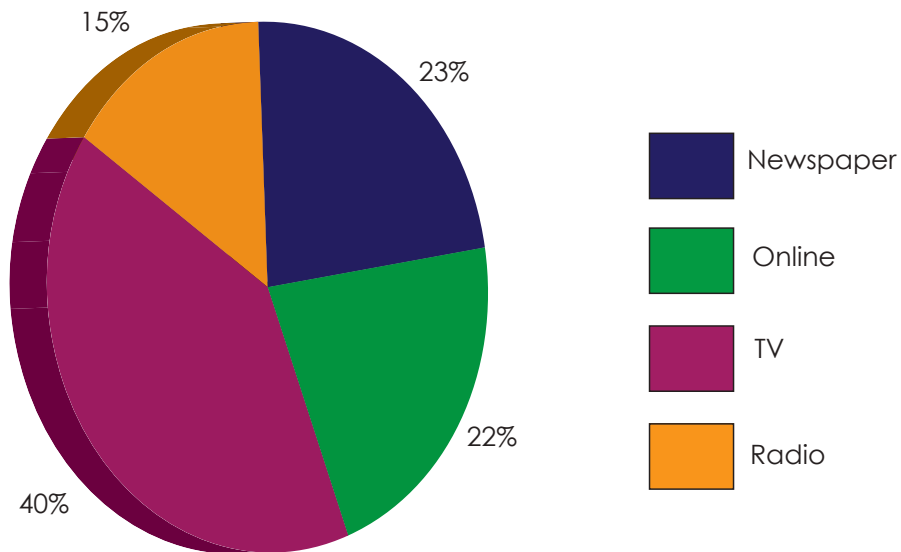


# Communications Department

## CAIR-Chicago in the Media

In 2012, the Communications Department's efforts resulted in CAIR-Chicago being featured in the press nearly 150 times, advocating for victims of discrimination and sharing expert analysis on civil rights issues and Islamophobia.

CAIR-Chicago representatives were featured, quoted, or reported on in the media over 150 times locally, nationally, and internationally. 34 times in print media, 60 times on broadcast TV, 24 times on radio, and 32 references online. Over the last 7 years, CAIR-Chicago has been in the news over nearly two thousand times, increasing its media visibility and impact every year.



# Television



# Radio



# Newspapers, Newswires, and Online



# Communications Department

## Media Communications



*Above: Ahmed Rehab, Executive Director, speaks at a press conference in response to anti-Muslim comments made by former Congressman Joe Walsh.*

In 2012, the Department organized press conferences related to interfaith cooperation against bigoted statements by former Illinois Rep. Joe Walsh, the series of hate crimes against Muslims and Sikhs during the month of Ramadan, the plight of Rohingya Muslims in Burma, and the launch of the popular #MyJihad Public Education Campaign.

Because of ongoing efforts by CAIR-Chicago's Communications Department to organize meetings and consultations with editors and producers of major U.S. news media outlets, producers, editors, and journalists now come to us regularly seeking story ideas, news leads and advice on how to improve their coverage of Muslim issues. The efforts of the Department have been crucial to helping shape a more positive and realistic understanding of the Muslim American community.

## The Web and Social Media

The Communications Department updates CAIR-Chicago's websites, [cairchicago.org](http://cairchicago.org) and [chicagomonitor.com](http://chicagomonitor.com) and the organization's respective social media pages via Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Pinterest, Flickr and Instagram on a daily basis to provide up to date information on all of the organization's activities, as well as general news and information relating to Islam and Muslims.

With its professional aesthetics, functionality, and cutting-edge technology, [cairchicago.org](http://cairchicago.org) represents one of the largest and most tech-savvy, not-for-profit websites in the United States. Whether providing incident report forms for victims of discrimination or sharing information through video blogs, the website amplifies CAIR-Chicago's ability to serve not only the Chicago community, but communities around the world who are interested in our work.



[www.cairchicago.org](http://www.cairchicago.org)



[www.chicagomonitor.com](http://www.chicagomonitor.com)



## Multimedia Production



*Left: Communications Coordinator Aymen Abdel Halim discusses issues related to the Muslim community in Chicago on ABC 7 News.*



*Above: Executive Director Ahmed Rehab takes on Bill O'Reilly on his cable television show.*

The CAIR-Chicago media production studio is an essential part of the organization's mission to educate the public, contribute to public debate, and raise awareness of pressing issues. The studio is regularly used to film public service announcements, documentaries, short films, and video blogs in which CAIR-Chicago staff and interns discuss current events and civil rights issues. These productions are featured on CAIR-Chicago's official YouTube page as well as on [cairchicago.org](http://cairchicago.org), and are often reposted by other websites, social feeds, and blogs.

## Communications in YOUR Community

- Communications Coordinators Aymen Abdel Halim and Leena Saleh present on media portrayals of Islam and Muslims for Carthage College students from Wisconsin.
- January 2012: Communications Coordinator Amina Sharif, along with interfaith leaders in Orland Park, presents on All American Muslim and the decision of the home improvement chain, Lowe's, to pull its ad from TLC's new reality show.
- Communications Coordinators Amina Sharif and Aymen Abdel Halim present a lecture on media portrayals of Islam and Muslims for students at DePaul University.
- March 2012: Staff Attorney Rabya Khan and Communications Coordinators Aymen Abdel Halim and Leena Saleh deliver cultural awareness presentations to Greyhound employees in an effort to improve customer relations with the Muslim American community.
- Communications Coordinators Aymen Abdel Halim and Leena Saleh present a lecture on the portrayal of Islam and Muslims in the media, news, and popular culture at Saint Xavier University in Chicago.
- Communications Coordinator Aymen Abdel Halim participates in the Loyola University Community Partner Gathering which focuses on fostering the development of interns, externs, and volunteers.
- Communications Coordinator Aymen Abdel Halim joins a press conference hosted by the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago (CIOGC) to discuss civil rights and the election results in Egypt.
- Communications Coordinator Aymen Abdel Halim present a lecture on civil rights and media activism to media and professional writing students at the University of Illinois at Chicago.
- Outreach Coordinator Gerald Hankerson and Communications Coordinator Aymen Abdel Halim present a lecture for Marquette University students on issues facing American Muslims and civil rights activism.

In the winter of 2012, the Associated Press exposed the NYPD's surveillance program targeting the Muslim communities in New York and New Jersey. In the spring, US Army Staff Sgt. Robert Bales murdered 16 Afghan civilians in what is now known as the Kandahar Massacre. In the summer of 2012, James Holmes committed the largest mass murder in US history, however the mainstream media failed to label Holmes a terrorist or his actions as terrorism.

In the fall, US Ambassador Christopher Stevens and three other US citizens were killed in attacks against the Benghazi consulate in Libya. Not long after, Newsweek featured a cover story entitled "Muslim Rage" that was filled with a range of bigoted and Islamophobic messages and images of Muslims. Before the year's end, a conflict between Israel and Palestinians erupted with over 100 civilians killed and nearly 1,500 injured in the Gaza Strip. Finally, in December of 2012, the US military drone program became headline news as Americans found themselves questioning its legal, ethical and political repercussions.

At every one of these pivotal moments in 2012, The Chicago Monitor was there to respond and deliver fresh and insightful views on these hot button issues.

The Chicago Monitor was founded by CAIR-Chicago Executive Director Ahmed Rehab and Communications Coordinator Aymen Abdel Halim to provide a platform for activists to produce works that challenge mainstream media coverage by providing alternative perspectives on social justice as well as civil and human rights issues. "Part of challenging the media, is being the media," says, Abdel Halim. "We aren't only civil rights activists, we're media activists as well. By effectively utilizing the latest multimedia technologies to produce The Chicago Monitor, we are furthering our mission of promoting civil and human rights advocacy."

The Chicago Monitor grew out of the Communications Department's Media Monitoring program which began in 2005 and served to monitor and respond to Chicago news publications regarding issues related to Islam and Muslims.

In 2012, the Media Monitoring program went online in the form of The Chicago Monitor and expanded its monitoring of coverage to include mainstream international news and media outlets covering a range of topics related to social justice, civil, and human rights issues.

The Chicago Monitor features articles by activists who write passionately, and through in-depth research, analysis, and critique, help deepen the context and understanding of important national and international issues that are mis-reported, underreported or fail to receive any media coverage. While the writers at the Chicago Monitor share perspectives that aren't presented in mainstream media, they also actively engage readers by informing them on ways to take action on pertinent issues.

The writers for the Chicago Monitor include CAIR-Chicago staff, interns, and volunteers from around the world. The newly-launched website has attracted thousands of visitors from numerous continents including North America, Europe, Asia, and Australia who are seeking alternative perspectives on important social justice, civil, and human rights issues.

The Chicago Monitor's Chief Editor, Maryam Arain, speaks on the publication's relevance: "The Chicago Monitor has become the primary vehicle for CAIR-Chicago to express its passion for addressing inequality and injustice on a global scale. Whereas the scope of the work that CAIR-Chicago does is often limited geographically and socially to issues of civil rights in the Midwest, the Chicago Monitor's online platform allows for a broadening of CAIR-Chicago's mission in a critical and innovative way."

While CAIR-Chicago aims to fight bigotry, promote tolerance and defend civil rights, the Chicago Monitor echoes these principles not only by giving voice to new and unique perspectives on critical issues, but also by inspiring activists to participate in social justice, civil, and human rights activism.



*Above: As part of his CAIR-Chicago Communications internship, Dartunorro Clark serves as the Assistant Editor of The Chicago Monitor.*

“The **Chicago Monitor’s** online platform allows for a broadening of CAIR-Chicago’s **mission** in a critical and innovative way.”

*– Maryam Arain, Communications Coordinator*



# Letters of Recognition



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706



**Pat Quinn**  
GOVERNOR

May 4, 2013

Council on American-Islamic Relations  
Chicago Chapter  
28 East Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1700  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Greetings!

As Governor of the State of Illinois, I am pleased to welcome everyone gathered for the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet of the Council on American Islamic Relations, Chicago Chapter (CAIR-Chicago).

I congratulate CAIR-Chicago on another successful year of serving the needs of the Muslim population in Illinois, and for working toward ensuring justice and civil rights for all the communities you serve. Your efforts to reach out to divergent faiths and build broad coalitions are truly commendable. In a state as diverse as ours, every effort to broaden cultural awareness and understanding is truly appreciated. I commend everyone in attendance for your dedication to advancing the wellbeing of Muslims throughout the Land of Lincoln and across the country.

The only way for us as a society to truly achieve unity and equality is through an understanding of the many diverse cultures that make up this great country. By respecting and embracing our differences and recognizing what makes us all unique, we can come together and work towards breaking down existing barriers of prejudice and discrimination.

On behalf of the people of Illinois, I offer my best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Quinn".

Pat Quinn  
Governor

# Letters of Recognition



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

RAJEM EMANUEL,  
MAYOR



May 4, 2013

Dear Friends

As Mayor and on behalf of the City of Chicago, it is my pleasure to extend warm greetings to everyone attending the Council on American-Islamic Relations-Chicago Chapter's (CAIR-Chicago) Ninth Annual Banquet.

Since its establishment in 2005, CAIR has become the largest non-profit Muslim and civil rights advocacy organization in the nation committed to protecting and promoting the civil rights and liberties of Muslim-Americans. CAIR-Chicago has provided a comprehensive array of invaluable services to the Muslim-American community. It has also facilitated important partnerships and civil rights advocacy opportunities for Muslim-Americans throughout the Chicagoland area.

This event celebrates the outstanding example of diversity and freedom of religion for all residents in our great city, and I commend the Council on American-Islamic Relations-Chicago Chapter for its commitment to the Muslim-American community.

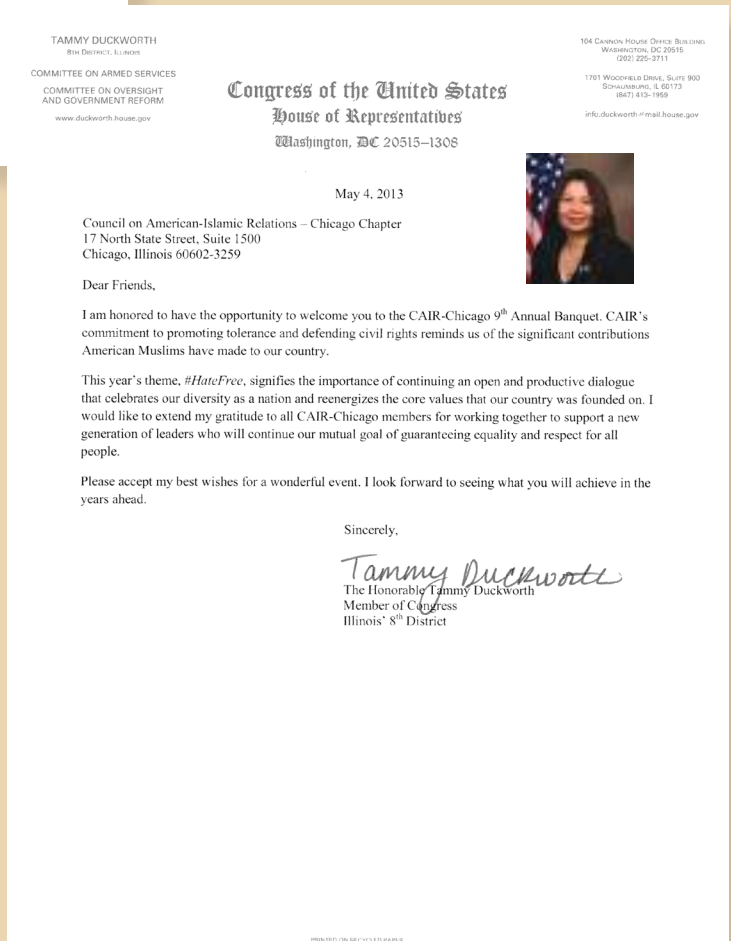
On behalf of the people of Chicago, you have my best wishes for an enjoyable celebration and much continued success in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rajem Emanuel".

Mayor

# Letters of Recognition





# Letters of Recognition

**BOBBY L. RUSH**

1ST DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

RANKING MEMBER, ENERGY AND POWER  
COMMERCE, MANUFACTURING AND TRADE  
COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

ASSISTANT WHIP

CO-CHAIR

AFRICAN PARTNERSHIP FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

CO-CHAIR

CONGRESSIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY CAUCUS

CO-CHAIR

JOBS NOW! CAUCUS

STEERING AND POLICY COMMITTEE

May 4, 2013



Ahmed M. Rehab, Executive Director  
Council on American-Islamic Relations  
Chicago Chapter  
17 North State Street, Suite 1500  
Chicago, Illinois 60602-3259

Dear Mr. Rehab:

It is an honor to extend my best wishes and warmest greetings to the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) and all those gathered for its 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet. I trust it will be an informative, interesting and thought-provoking event for all.

Illinois takes great pride in its vibrant Muslim community here in Chicago, and throughout the state. This year's event, much like in previous years, will be a fitting tribute to all Muslims who call Illinois home. I salute the CAIR Chicago Chapter for their ongoing efforts to enhance the understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.

This year's event, structured around the theme "#HateFree" should reassert CAIR's commitment to the principles of freedom and equality in a new and ever-changing era while engaging all communities in building mutual understanding and trust. I am encouraged by the leadership that you have demonstrated through the years. The CAIR Chicago Chapter has continued to grow throughout the years under your leadership. You and the organization have worked tirelessly to enhance the lives of others by providing opportunities for families and communities to make a difference in the quality of their lives.

My friends, let us continue together to do good works, collaborate for justice, and work for stronger understanding in our community and our nation. I applaud your efforts and look forward to our united work in the future.

Sincerely,

Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress

BLR: ys



**MIKE QUIGLEY**  
UNITED STATES CONGRESS

March 23, 2013



Dear Friends,

I congratulate the Council on American-Islamic Relations for another productive year. The Annual Report gives us time every year to recognize CAIR-Chicago and its work to fight for the equal treatment and protection of all citizens.

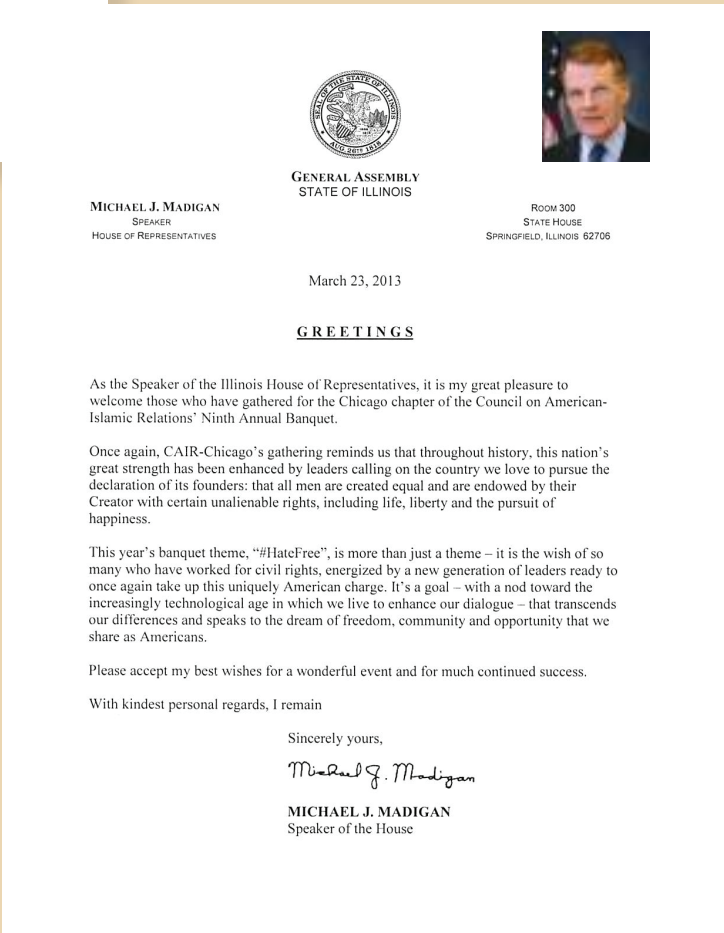
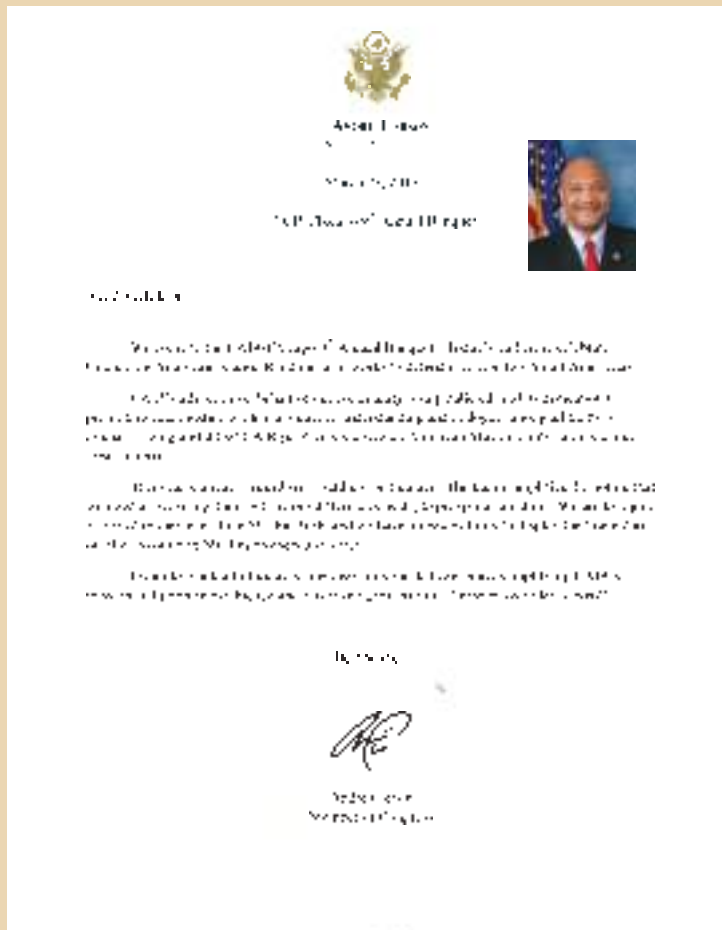
CAIR-Chicago facilitates open lines of communication between different cultures and religions. Their efforts encouraging equality, enhancing cultural knowledge, and promoting justice are both admirable and necessary. The work that CAIR-Chicago does for our city and across the nation not only enriches the Muslim community but also expands productive dialogue between cultures. I thank them for their efforts.

Sincerely,

Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress

4-01-13 #111

# Letters of Recognition



# Letters of Recognition



## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

JESSE WHITE • Secretary of State

January 28, 2013



Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)  
Chicago Office  
28 East Jackson, Suite 1700  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

### Greetings:

Please accept my warmest welcome as you gather in celebration of the 9th CAIR Chicago Annual Banquet.

This year's theme, "#HateFree," will provide the perfect occasion to educate, empower, mentor and find creative ways to engage in an open dialogue to build communities with mutual understanding and trust.

As you celebrate 9 years of working tirelessly to enhance the understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, and empower American Muslims, know that the people of Illinois join with me in offering a sincere thank you for a job well done.

Again, congratulations on this milestone and best wishes for a successful event.

Very truly yours,

JESSE WHITE  
Secretary of State

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
Chicago, IL 60604



## OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL STATE OF ILLINOIS

Lisa Madigan  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

MARCH 27, 2013

Council on American-Islamic Relations  
Chicago Chapter  
28 East Jackson Boulevard - Suite 1700  
Chicago, IL 60604



Dear Friends,

As Illinois Attorney General, I am honored to welcome you to CAIR-Chicago's Ninth Annual Banquet. I want to congratulate the Council on American-Islamic Relations-Chicago for its important work to ensure civil rights and promote justice and tolerance within our community.

We are fortunate to live in an exceptionally diverse nation. That diversity is a great strength of America, and yet it also poses challenges. We are blessed that groups such as CAIR are devoted to building mutual understanding and trust among the many creeds, colors, religions and backgrounds that make up our community and our country.

CAIR is to be commended for its commitment to the support and betterment of Chicago's Muslim community. But its larger mission is equally important: "To defend civil rights, fight bigotry and promote tolerance." This mission benefits everyone in our community.

Again, welcome to all in attendance tonight, and may 2013 prove to be a wonderful and successful year for CAIR-Chicago and all those it serves.

Very truly yours,

Lisa Madigan  
ATTORNEY GENERAL



# Letters of Recognition



**DAN RUTHERFORD**  
TREASURER  
STATE OF ILLINOIS



March 23, 2013

Council on American-Islamic Relations  
Chicago Chapter  
28 East Jackson Boulevard Suite 1700  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Greetings!

I wish to commend the Chicago Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations on their continued hard work and success in working towards breaking down the barriers that exist within our society today. As Illinois State Treasurer, I have a deep admiration for those who work together to strengthen our communities and improve the lives of those around us.

The theme for this year's gala, "WhatFree," is one that instills a message of hope and promise that generations to come will eradicate bigotry and inequality. Your work to ensure justice and promise that regardless of different backgrounds is admirable and sets an example unlike any other.

This year marks the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet for CAIR-Chicago and as you celebrate this momentous occasion, I would like to congratulate you on your successes and commend you for all of the hard work that your organization has done to help promote positive change in our communities. I recognize your efforts to increase awareness and am ever so proud of the contributions that your organization has made.

I hope that you enjoy your annual banquet and I send my best wishes for your continued success.

Sincerely,

Dan Rutherford  
Illinois State Treasurer

OFFICE OF THE  
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT



ROBERT J. SHAY, CLERK  
Chicago, Illinois 60602, Phone: (312) 443-2000  
Fax: (312) 443-4027  
www.cookcountyil.gov/clerk

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

March 23, 2013

Mr. Ahmed M. Rehab  
Executive Director  
Council on American-Islamic Relations, Chicago Chapter  
28 E. Jackson Blvd., Suite 1400  
Chicago, IL 60604



Dear Mr. Rehab:

Greetings to you and everyone attending the Ninth Annual Banquet for the Chicago Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR). The selected theme, "WhatFree," resonates with me as a reminder that self-definition is integral to self-determination and progressive action.

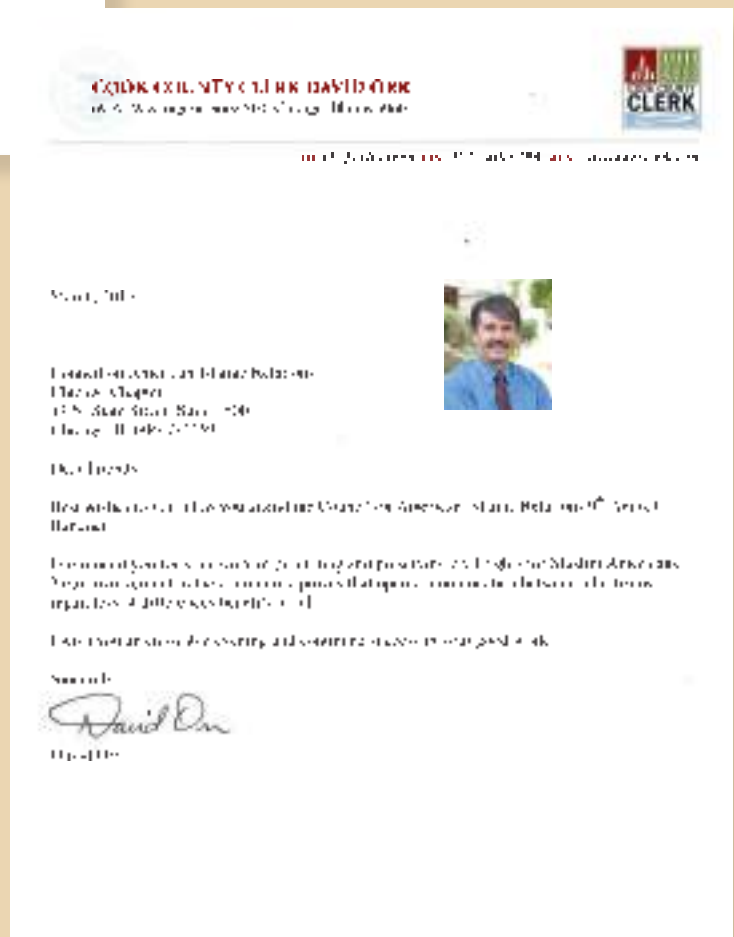
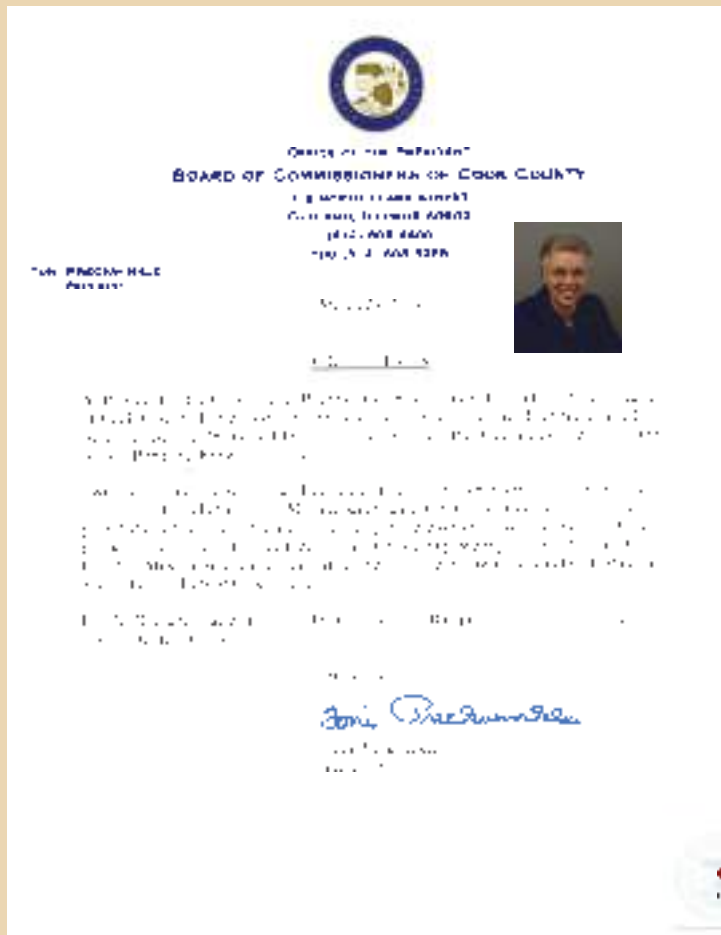
I applaud CAIR-Chicago for its commitment to ending practices of defamation and discrimination in our communities, and its efforts to unite individuals from various backgrounds in support of its mission to ensure justice for all. The CAIR organization works tirelessly to promote understanding across racial, religious and cultural lines, and thereby serves to enhance the quality of life for all Americans.

For its dedication to inclusiveness, civic responsibility, human rights and public safety, I extend best wishes for continued success to the Chicago Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Brown  
Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County

# Letters of Recognition



# Letters of Recognition



Rahm Emanuel  
Mayor

Department of Police • City of Chicago  
3510 South Michigan Avenue • Chicago, Illinois 60653

Garry F. McCarthy  
Superintendent of Police

February 6, 2013

Ahmed M. Rehab  
Executive Director  
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-Chicago)  
28 East Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1700  
Chicago, Illinois 60604



Dear Mr. Rehab:

With great pleasure, I offer my congratulations to the Council on American-Islamic Relations - Chicago Chapter (CAIR - Chicago) on another outstanding year of serving Chicago's Muslim community. The Chicago Police Department is proud to support CAIR - Chicago in its efforts to promote cultural understanding and tolerance.

Since its inception in 2004, CAIR - Chicago has worked diligently to defend civil rights, fight bigotry, and foster understanding among the many diverse communities within the City of Chicago and its surrounding municipalities. The theme of this year's Ninth Annual Banquet, "Hate Free", is one that embodies a new era of guaranteeing equality and respect for all, while also finding creative ways to open dialogue and cooperation. CAIR - Chicago has not only helped champion the rights and liberties of the Muslim community but also has established meaningful partnerships with groups of various faiths to promote justice and mutual understanding, setting an example for others to follow.

I thank you for your continued dedication and commitment to Chicago's Muslim community. Best wishes and success in all your future endeavors. Your contributions in promoting greater understanding and tolerance throughout our city is appreciated and respected.

Sincerely,

  
Garry F. McCarthy  
Superintendent of Police  
Chicago Police Department

Emergency and TTY: 9-1-1 • Non-Emergency and TTY: (within City limits) 3-1-1 • Non-Emergency and TTY: (outside City limits)  
Email: [police@cityofchicago.org](mailto:police@cityofchicago.org) • Website: • Non-Emergency and TTY: [www.cityofchicago.org/police](http://www.cityofchicago.org/police)



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF  
RICHARD J. DALEY CENTER  
COOK COUNTY  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602

Thomas J. Dart  
Sheriff

March 23, 2013

Council on American-Islamic Relations  
Chicago Chapter  
28 East Jackson Blvd., Suite 1700  
Chicago, IL 60604



Dear Friends,

I would like to congratulate the Council on American-Islamic Relations on yet another successful year dedicated to justice and tolerance in our communities.

As you celebrate your 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet this year, I hope that you recognize the great efforts you have made in extending justice and deepening understanding of all communities across Chicago land. I commend you on your continued commitment to civil rights and justice, allowing our city and our nation to prosper as a unified whole.

The great mission of your organization not only brings comfort to the Muslim American community, but also to the greater Chicago community that hosts a wonderfully diverse population. Your work in educating the citizens of Chicago continues to benefit our society as it provides for a greater understanding and appreciation of the Muslim culture.

This year's theme of "Hate Free" is truly reflective of the changes we are seeing in our society today, while still standing as of the importance of equality and respect for all. CAIR-Chicago is a wonderful organization that has committed itself to building trust and unity across our great city with a goal of strengthening the United States of America through the trust of understanding of our differences.

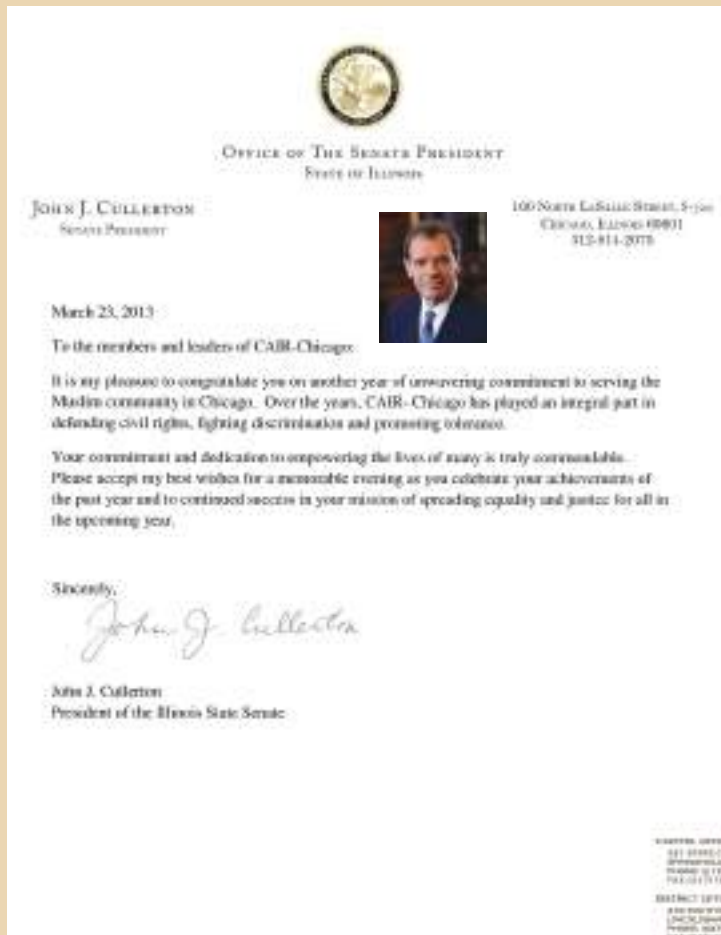
Congratulations on another great year and I wish you all the best as you continue your mission. Please keep up the great work you are doing for all Chicagoans!

Sincerely,

  
Thomas J. Dart  
Sheriff of Cook County



# Letters of Recognition



# Letters of Recognition



Office of the Mayor  
2100 Ridge Avenue  
Evanston, IL 60201-2798  
847.566.2679  
847.567.7814  
etradah@cityofevanston.org  
www.cityofevanston.org

Elizabeth B. Tradah  
Mayor

January 21, 2013



Ahmed M. Rehab  
Executive Director  
Council on American-Islamic Relations  
28 E. Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1700  
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Director Rehab:

Thank you for the opportunity to write a letter of support for your work to ensure justice and foster understanding. Evanston is a diverse community that benefits from everything you do. My thanks go to everyone who is attending your event.

Congratulations on a phenomenal past year and best wishes for the future. The theme, "Hate Free" brings hope for equality, respect and open dialogue. We do best when we work together and appreciate one another's ideas, voices and experiences. You are helping the entire Chicagoland area with what I am sure will be a successful event and another memorable year.

Sincerely,

*Elizabeth Tradah*  
Elizabeth Tradah  
Mayor

# Letters of Recognition



Donald K. Gerard  
Mayor & Mayor-Councilmember

101 North First Street  
Champaign, Illinois 61820-4042  
Telephone: (217) 463-6700  
Fax: (217) 463-4720  
www.ci.champaign.il.us

February 5, 2013

Ahmed Rehab  
Executive Director  
Council on American-Islamic Relations – Chicago Chapter  
28 E. Jackson Blvd., Suite 1410  
Chicago, IL 60604



Dear Director Rehab:

Please accept this letter in support of a successful event for the Illinois Muslim Community, taking place on March 23rd. CAIR-Chicago's theme this year, "Whistle" real, is evidence of your commitment to educate the public, foster understanding, and continue the goal of living harmoniously amongst the diversity within our communities.

It is commendable that this year marks the 9<sup>th</sup> annual banquet of the fastest-growing chapter of the nation's largest Muslim civil rights organization.

Best Wishes,

Mayor, Don Gerard



Office of the Mayor  
Laurel Lunt Prussing

400 S. Vine Street  
Urbana, IL 61801  
(217) 384-2456  
Fax (217) 384-2426  
llprussing@urbanaininois.us

February 22, 2013

Council on American-Islamic Relations  
Chicago Chapter  
28 East Jackson Blvd., Suite 1700  
Chicago, IL 60604



Dear Friends:

The City of Urbana supports your efforts to engage all communities in building a mutual understanding and trust to strive for a society free of hate.

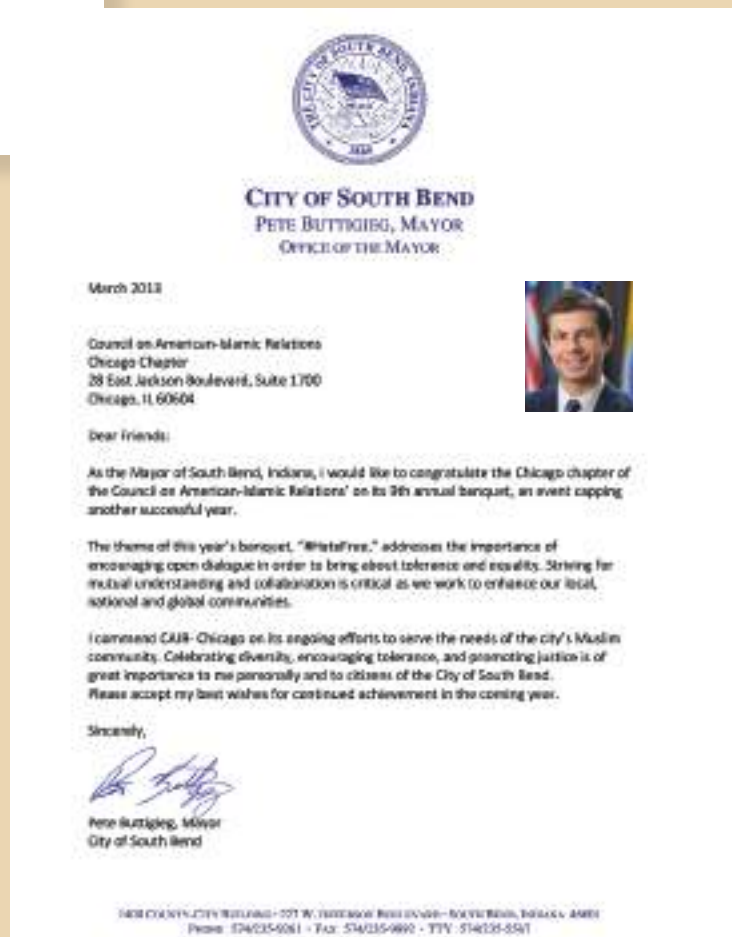
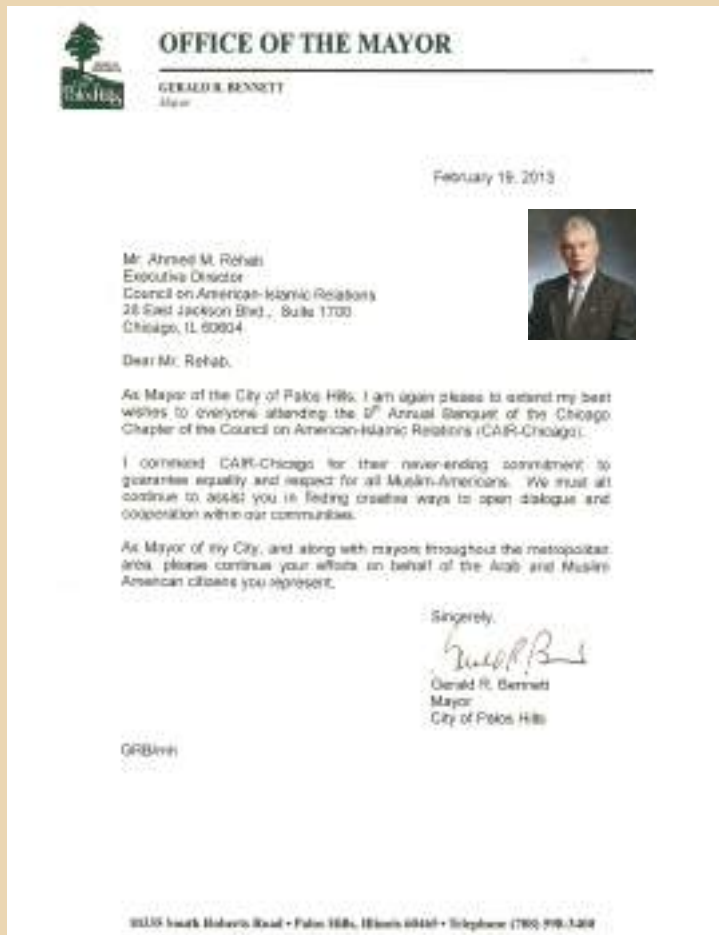
Please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable event.

Sincerely,

Laurel Lunt Prussing



# Letters of Recognition



# Letters of Recognition



# Letters of Recognition



City of Harvey  
15530 Broadway Avenue  
Harvey, IL 60426

Eric J. Kellogg  
Mayor



February 27, 2013

Ahmed M. Rehab  
Executive Director  
Council on American-Islamic Relations, Chicago Chapter  
28 East Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1700  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Director Rehab:

As Mayor of the great City of Harvey, I would like to welcome everyone that gathered for the Annual Banquet of the Council on American Islamic Relations. The City of Harvey's Muslim population is steadily increasing and our City supports your mission to promote equality.

This year's theme "Hate Free" proves that you are committed to your goals of diversification within our community. Your efforts to promote equality and defending the civil rights of Muslims are truly commendable. The City of Harvey appreciates the work of your organization as it advances the true meaning of community.

Sincerely,

Mayor Eric J. Kellogg



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

VILLAGE OF OAK BROOK

GOPAL G. LAJMALANI M.D., MBA  
PRESIDENT

January 29, 2013

Mr. Ahmed M. Rehab, Executive Director  
Council on American-Islamic Relations-Chicago Chapter  
28 East Jackson Blvd. Suite 1700  
Chicago, IL 60604



Dear Mr. Rehab:

It is my pleasure, as President of the Village of Oak Brook, to extend congratulations to the members of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), Chicago Chapter.

Your 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet, themed "HateFree", speaks to the vision of guaranteeing equality and respect for all. I commend CAIR-Chicago for their ongoing commitment in helping to engage all communities in building mutual understanding and trust.

Congratulations on a great year and best wishes for another successful event.

Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,

Gopal G. Lajmalani, MD., M.B.A.  
Village President



# Letters of Recognition



Village of  
**Northbrook**  
COMMUNITY • CULTURE • COMMERCIAL • SPORTS • RECREATION • EDUCATION • www.northbrook.org

February 15, 2013



CAIR- Chicago  
Attn: Mr. Ahmed M. Fakhri  
28 East Jackson Blvd., Suite 1700  
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Fakhri,

Let me first offer my sincere congratulations on another remarkable year for CAIR- Chicago. Please accept my best wishes, along with those of the Village Board of Trustees, for a successful 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet!

The annual banquet provides a wonderful opportunity to recognize the important role that the Illinois Muslim community plays in society. The theme for this year's banquet — #HateFive — recognizes the changing times and the new communication outlets that are available to promote messages of understanding, acceptance and trust. Community diversity is something that we all should embrace; diversity makes us a stronger Nation.

Again, congratulations to your organization and best wishes on the continued advancement of your mission to ensure justice for all members of the Muslim community as well as to further nurture a understanding.

Sincerely,  
  
Sandra E. Fynn  
President, Village of Northbrook

---

MEMBER	MEMBER	MEMBER	MEMBER	MEMBER
Sandra L. Davis	William J. Berman	Julie B. Berman	William D. Justice	Richard
	John A. Kelly	Andrew J. Lerner	Robert H. Reed	



**HOFFMAN ESTATES**  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

William D. McLeod  
Mayor



March 23, 2013

To the members, guests, family & friends of the Council on American-Islamic Relations:

Please accept my congratulations to the members of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, Chicago Chapter (CAIR) on your 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet celebrating your success in ensuring justice for the underserved in our communities.

The theme of your banquet, "HateFive" is appropriate considering CAIR-Chicago's commitment to guaranteeing equality and respect for all. Through cultivating an open dialogue and cooperation among all people, CAIR-Chicago has made it a priority to appreciate one another's unique ideas, voices and experiences.

As our community strives toward excellence, peace and prosperity, it is organizations like yours that make a difference in the lives of our residents. Your contributions are a vital part of our community and I would like to wish CAIR-Chicago many more years of successful service!

Sincerely,  
  
William D. McLeod  
Mayor

---

1980 Roosevelt Road, Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60139 • Phone: 847.882.4900 • Fax: 847.761.8521  
Web: www.hoffmanestates.org • E-Mail: info@hoffmanestates.org

# Letters of Recognition

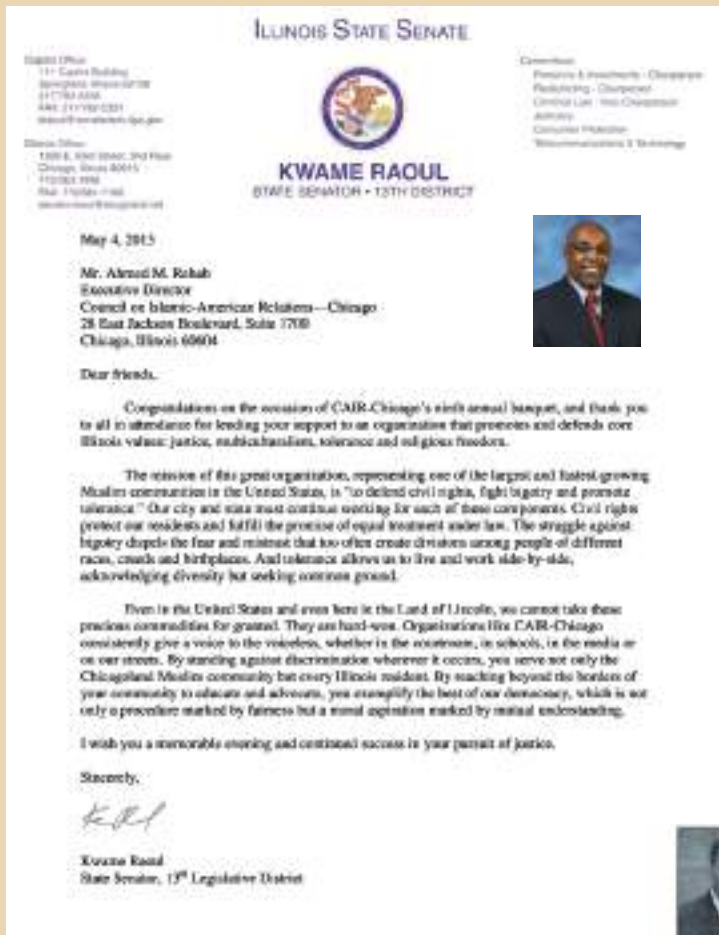


# Letters of Recognition





# Letters of Recognition



# Letters of Recognition

ILLINOIS STATE SENATE  
CHAMPAIGN, IL 61820  
SENATOR MARTINEZ  
307 JACOBSON DRIVE  
CHICAGO, IL 60604  
TEL: 312-354-3300  
FAX: 312-354-3301  
WWW.SENATORMARTINEZ.COM



**IRIS Y. MARTINEZ**  
STATE SENATOR - 30<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT



February 23, 2013

Dear Members of CAIR-Chicago,


I want to extend congratulations as you celebrate another successful year as the national, fastest-growing chapter of an extraordinary Muslim civil rights organization. Gathering for your 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on your dedication to a better tomorrow over the past year.

I want to also thank CAIR-Chicago and all here tonight for your commitment to your community and to a better future society.

On behalf of the 20<sup>th</sup> Senate District, we give our support and assure well wishes to CAIR-Chicago as we celebrate your success!

Sincerely,  
  
Senator Iris Y. Martinez  
30<sup>th</sup> Senate District

SEN. MICHAEL F. FERICHS, ILL. 2008  
CHAMPAIGN, IL 61820  
341-5100-7400



**MICHAEL FERICHS**  
STATE SENATOR - 24<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT



February 4, 2013

Council on American-Islamic Relations  
24 East Jackson Blvd., Suite 1700  
Chicago, IL 60604

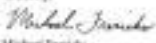
Dear Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet of the Council on American-Islamic Relations. As the fastest growing chapter in the United States, CAIR-Chicago has helped to foster equality and fight against bigotry for its thousands of members in the Chicago area and Muslim across our nation.

This theme of "Stand for" helps to promote the ideals of mutual tolerance and respect for every person in this great country. Justice over mercy, "fit for" also encourages all of us to promote a future of respecting differences in our society without discrimination or bigotry.

Throughout the year, CAIR-Chicago has proved to be one of the largest advocates of promoting community understanding and opening lines of dialogue to the many civil rights obstacles that Muslims face. The work of CAIR-Chicago has truly made a positive impact on the lives of many Illinois residents, and I hope will continue promoting equality in years to come.

I extend my congratulations on another successful year, and best wishes for the future.

Sincerely,  
  
Michael Ferichs

ILLINOIS STATE SENATE



**LINDA HOLMES**  
STATE SENATOR - 42<sup>nd</sup> DISTRICT



February 11, 2013

Council on American-Islamic Relations  
Chicago Chapter  
24 East Jackson Blvd., Suite 1700  
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Friends,

I would like to extend my best wishes to another successful banquet!


I would like to recognize your hard work in helping Muslim Americans integrate into their communities and giving them a sense of belonging. Acting to begin an era of being "fit for" with respect and equality for all. Helping to foster an understanding between the Muslim and non-Muslim communities.

I applaud your commitment to appreciating one year's experiences, ideas and differences, which is what makes our country stand out in the world. We must continue to build on that commitment through understanding and the building of trust between communities as well as the community leaders.


I wish you much continued success and an enjoyable event.

Sincerely,  
  
Linda Holmes  
State Senator - 42<sup>nd</sup> District

SEN. DAN KOTOWSKI, ILL. 2008  
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62762  
217-782-2870  
WWW.SENATORKOTOWSKI.COM



**DAN KOTOWSKI**  
STATE SENATOR - 28<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT



February 7, 2013

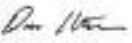
Council on American-Islamic Relations  
Chicago Chapter  
24 East Jackson Boulevard  
Suite 1700  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to congratulate you and welcome everyone gathered for the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Banquet of the Council on American-Islamic Relations-Chicago.

Your commitment to serving the needs of the Chicago's Muslim population is outstanding. CAIR-Chicago has fought and battled against intolerance to create a greater understanding between Muslims and non-Muslims.

Along with your family and friends, I wish you many years of continued success.

Respectfully,  
  
Dan Kotowski  
State Senator  
28<sup>th</sup> District

# Letters of Recognition

**MEMBERSHIP**  
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION  
MEMBERSHIP CONTACT INFORMATION  
MEMBERSHIP CONTACT INFORMATION



**ILLINOIS STATE SENATE**  
**MICHAEL NOLAND**  
STATE SENATOR - 20th DISTRICT

OFFICE: 1000 S. MICHIGAN AVE., 11TH FLOOR  
CHICAGO, IL 60605  
PHONE: 312.355.1100  
FAX: 312.355.1100

OFFICE: 1000 S. MICHIGAN AVE., 11TH FLOOR  
CHICAGO, IL 60605  
PHONE: 312.355.1100  
FAX: 312.355.1100



February 21, 2013

Alfred W. Reback  
Executive Director  
Council on American-Islamic Relations Chicago  
28 East Superior Street, #1700  
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Reback:

I am honored to congratulate CAIR-Chicago and again offer my support in your great work in all of our communities.

I applaud your theme, "Hate-Free" for the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit. I am in agreement that this theme speaks to a core set of guaranteeing equality and respect for all, while also finding creative ways to open dialogue and cooperation. Having CAIR-Chicago reaffirm that commitment by engaging all communities in building mutual understanding and trust still benefits each and every one of us and I thank you for this.

On behalf of my constituents of Illinois State 21<sup>st</sup> District, please accept my best wishes for a successful event and for much continued success.

Sincerely yours,



Michael Noland  
State Senator

MEMBERSHIP CONTACT INFORMATION

ILLINOIS STATE SENATE



**Heather A. Steans**  
SENATOR

OFFICE: 1000 S. MICHIGAN AVE., 11TH FLOOR  
CHICAGO, IL 60605  
PHONE: 312.355.1100  
FAX: 312.355.1100

OFFICE: 1000 S. MICHIGAN AVE., 11TH FLOOR  
CHICAGO, IL 60605  
PHONE: 312.355.1100  
FAX: 312.355.1100



February, 2013

Dear Friends,

Congratulations to the Council on American Islamic Relations - Chicago on their 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit. This event celebrates another year of CAIR-Chicago advocating for civil rights on behalf of the American Muslim community.

CAIR-Chicago's work has fostered understanding and tolerance within our communities and I commend their innovative campaigns to protect peaceful and productive dialogue that serve as a model for others. CAIR-Chicago's work reminds us that society should never tolerate discrimination.

Please accept my best wishes for a wonderful event and continued success in the future.

Sincerely,



Heather Steans  
State Senator - District 7

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
STATE OF ILLINOIS

MEMBERSHIP CONTACT INFORMATION



**Mary K. Flowers**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
20th DISTRICT

OFFICE: 1000 S. MICHIGAN AVE., 11TH FLOOR  
CHICAGO, IL 60605  
PHONE: 312.355.1100  
FAX: 312.355.1100

OFFICE: 1000 S. MICHIGAN AVE., 11TH FLOOR  
CHICAGO, IL 60605  
PHONE: 312.355.1100  
FAX: 312.355.1100



February 7, 2013

Alfred W. Reback  
Executive Director  
Council on American-Islamic Relations  
28 East Superior Street, Suite 1700  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Executive Director Reback:

It is with great honor and pleasure that I offer those words of congratulations to CAIR-Chicago as your outstanding organization celebrates its remarkable contributions in helping to uplift righteousness for the beleaguered members of our communities in the Chicago area during the past 2012 year.

That CAIR-Chicago again in 2013 continues to embark on a wonderful mission with another great theme for this year's event, "Hate-Free" exemplifies the true testament and great works of the African Muslim community.

CAIR-Chicago in advocating for respect and equality, open dialogue and cooperation, understanding and trust among all people, and this, peacefully in a "Hate-Free" manner, giving its work in concert with one another for a better nation, is the noble road that we should all aspire to embrace and support.

Thank you CAIR-Chicago!

Sincerely,



Mary K. Flowers  
State Representative, 20<sup>th</sup> District

MEMBERSHIP CONTACT INFORMATION

ILLINOIS STATE SENATE



**JOHN C. D'AMICO**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
16TH DISTRICT

OFFICE: 1000 S. MICHIGAN AVE., 11TH FLOOR  
CHICAGO, IL 60605  
PHONE: 312.355.1100  
FAX: 312.355.1100

OFFICE: 1000 S. MICHIGAN AVE., 11TH FLOOR  
CHICAGO, IL 60605  
PHONE: 312.355.1100  
FAX: 312.355.1100



March 2013

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to offer this letter recognizing those gathered for the Chicago chapter of the Council on American Islamic Relations' 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit.

CAIR-Chicago has had another successful year of defending civil rights, fighting bigotry, and promoting tolerance throughout Chicago and I am honored to be a part of celebrating these accomplishments. This year, CAIR-Chicago's theme is "Hate-Free", which speaks to a new way of guaranteeing equality and respect for all through dialogue and cooperation. Through this campaign, CAIR-Chicago is reaffirming its commitment to engaging all communities in building mutual understanding and trust, and strengthening the creation of a nation that appreciates the ideas, talents, and experiences of all people.

I commend CAIR-Chicago on its ongoing efforts to ensure justice for the Muslim community and fostering understanding between Muslims and non-Muslims and wish the organization nothing but continued success. Thank you again for allowing me to be a part of your celebration, and I hope that you has an enjoyable and memorable event.

Sincerely,



John C. D'Amico

# Letters of Recognition





# Letters of Recognition



# Letters of Recognition



**TONI L. FOULKES**  
ALDERMAN - 15th WARD

City Hall - Room 300  
100 North LaSalle Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60602  
Telephone: 312.743.8888

**CITY COUNCIL**  
COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

CLARENCE

COMMITTEES: HEALTH AND SAFETY  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
INTEGRITY, ETHICS AND TRANSPARENCY  
LABOR AND OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY  
LEGISLATION

**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**  
Business & Economic Protection  
Civilians  
Energy and Environmental  
Health and Environmental  
Human Resources  
Immigration and Naturalization  
Justice  
Labor and Occupational Safety  
Legislation  
Public Safety  
Public Works  
Transportation and Infrastructure

January 30, 2013

Ahmed M. Rehab  
Executive Director  
Council on American-Islamic Relations  
Chicago Chapter  
28 East Jackson Blvd., Suite 1700  
Chicago, IL 60604



Dear Director Rehab:

As Alderman of the 15<sup>th</sup> Ward, I would like to welcome those who have gathered for the Chicago chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations' Ninth Annual Banquet.

I want to commend the Council on American-Islamic Relations Chicago for your ongoing commitment to serving the needs of Chicago's Muslim population and for working toward ensuring justice and civil rights for all the communities you serve. Your efforts help Muslims integrate into their communities and give them a sense of belonging in this large, multicultural city.

This year's theme, "Hate Free" is evidence of your commitment to educate the public and foster understanding of diversity within our communities. The work of the Chicago Chapter has had a positive impact on the lives of the many Chicago residents.

Please accept my best wishes for a successful event and for much continued success.

Sincerely,  
  
Alderman Toni L. Foulkes  
15<sup>th</sup> Ward





**EMMA EL BETTS**  
COUNCIL CHAIR

City Hall - Room 300  
100 North LaSalle Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60602  
Telephone: 312.743.8888  
Fax: 312.743.1300

**CITY COUNCIL**  
CITY OF CHICAGO

EMMA EL BETTS  
ALDERMAN - 21<sup>st</sup> WARD

City Hall - Room 300  
100 North LaSalle Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60602  
Telephone: 312.743.8888  
Fax: 312.743.1300

**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**  
Business & Economic Protection  
Civilians  
Energy and Environmental  
Health and Environmental  
Human Resources  
Immigration and Naturalization  
Justice  
Labor and Occupational Safety  
Legislation  
Public Safety  
Public Works  
Transportation and Infrastructure

February 27, 2013

Ahmed M. Rehab  
Executive Director  
CAIR CHICAGO  
Council on American-Islamic Relations  
Chicago Chapter  
28 East Jackson Blvd., Suite 1700  
Chicago, IL 60604



Dear Ahmed M. Rehab:

I'm pleased to support CAIR Chicago and I am very excited for you. I am very proud of your accomplishments and your desire to work to reaffirm your commitment by engaging all segments in building mutual understanding and trust.

I respect your willingness to work with individuals and organizations with diverse backgrounds. Our nation is one that achieves greatness when we come together to appreciate one another's ideas, voices and experiences, making the United States the most exceptional country in the world. Continue to strive for excellence and you will go far in life.

CAIR Chicago has benefited many community members, leaders and elected officials and engineering communities guaranteeing equality and respect for all.

Therefore, with full confidence I support CAIR Chicago and give my best wishes on behalf of the residents of the 21<sup>st</sup> Ward.

Please contact me should additional information become necessary.

Sincerely,  
  
Emma El Betts  
Alderman, 21<sup>st</sup> Ward  
MM/13



**BRENDAN REILLY**  
ALDERMAN - 42nd WARD

City Hall - Room 300  
100 North LaSalle Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60602  
Telephone: 312.743.8888

**CITY COUNCIL**  
CITY OF CHICAGO

BRENDAN REILLY  
ALDERMAN - 42<sup>nd</sup> WARD

City Hall - Room 300  
100 North LaSalle Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60602  
Telephone: 312.743.8888  
Fax: 312.743.1300

**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**  
Business & Economic Protection  
Civilians  
Energy and Environmental  
Health and Environmental  
Human Resources  
Immigration and Naturalization  
Justice  
Labor and Occupational Safety  
Legislation  
Public Safety  
Public Works  
Transportation and Infrastructure

February 22, 2013

Ahmed M. Rehab  
Executive Director  
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)  
Chicago Chapter  
28 East Jackson Blvd., Suite 1700  
Chicago, IL 60604




Dear Mr. Rehab:

As Alderman of Downtown Chicago's 42<sup>nd</sup> Ward, it is my pleasure to extend my warmest congratulations to the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) on another phenomenal year!

I fully support CAIR's efforts to serve the Chicago Muslim population by promoting mutual understanding and respect between. This year's theme, "Hate-Free" stresses the importance of cooperation and respect between different communities, while also engineering new and exciting means of fostering dialogue and trust. I am confident that CAIR will continue to be a positive influence and help to shape our communities for the better.

On behalf of myself and my constituents in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Ward, please accept my warmest regards while you and CAIR continue your very important work.

Sincerely,  
  
Brendan Reilly  
Alderman, 42<sup>nd</sup> Ward



**JAMES CAPPLEMAN**  
ALDERMAN, 46<sup>th</sup> WARD


City Hall - Room 300  
100 North LaSalle Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60602  
Telephone: 312.743.8888  
Fax: 312.743.1300

**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**  
Business and Government Operations  
CIVILIAN  
COMMITTEE, ETHICS AND CONDUCT  
HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
HOUSING AND REAL ESTATE  
LICENSE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION  
POLICE AND TRAFFIC SAFETY  
ZONING, LEASING AND BUILDING STANDARDS

**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**  
Business & Economic Protection  
Civilians  
Energy and Environmental  
Health and Environmental  
Human Resources  
Immigration and Naturalization  
Justice  
Labor and Occupational Safety  
Legislation  
Public Safety  
Public Works  
Transportation and Infrastructure

February 22, 2013

Ahmed M. Rehab  
Executive Director  
Chicago Chapter  
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)  
28 E. Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1700  
Chicago, IL 60604



Dear Mr. Rehab,

As Alderman of the Ward, I would like to extend my warmest greetings to all attendees of the Council on American-Islamic Relations 9th Annual Banquet Event. I appreciate and am in support of the events of this #HateFree as a new era of guaranteeing equality and respect for all, while also finding creative ways to open dialogue and cooperation. Your work to ensure justice for the embattled in our communities and to foster understanding throughout Chicago-land is truly commendable.

I wish you success for many years to come as you continue to fight for civil rights and create greater understanding of the diversity that makes our community strong.

Sincerely,

James Cappleman  
Alderman, 46<sup>th</sup> Ward

4544 NORTH BROADWAY CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60640 TELEPHONE: 773-878-4646 FAX: 773-878-4920  
INFO@JAMES46.ORG

# How to Support us

---

We all have something valuable to learn from and inspire within each other, and Inshallah (God willing), we continue to be granted the opportunity to do so. CAIR-Chicago thanks all the volunteers, interns and staff who have given their time and effort to the advancement of the Muslim Community, CAIR-Chicago, and social justice, and encourages continued involvement in the years to come.

## FOLLOW US

1. Sign up for our mailing list ([www.cairchicago.org](http://www.cairchicago.org))
2. Respond to action alerts
3. Follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/cairchicago](http://www.facebook.com/cairchicago))
4. Follow us on twitter ([@cairchicago](https://twitter.com/cairchicago))
5. Follow us on YouTube ([www.youtube.com/cairillinois](http://www.youtube.com/cairillinois))

## SUPPORT US

(Scholars have confirmed that CAIR-Chicago is an eligible recipient of Zakat. As always, your donations to CAIR-Chicago are tax deductible).

1. Sign up for CAIR-Chicago's Dollar-A-Day program ([www.cairchicago.org/dollar-a-day](http://www.cairchicago.org/dollar-a-day))
2. Make a general donation ([www.cairchicago.org/make-a-donation-form](http://www.cairchicago.org/make-a-donation-form))
3. Check to see if your employer has a gift matching program
4. Designate CAIR-Chicago as a beneficiary in your will ([planned giving](#))
5. Donate stocks, bonds or financial instruments to CAIR-Chicago
6. Donate vehicles via Cars 4 Causes ([www.cars4causes.net/charity-car-donation/cair-chicago](http://www.cars4causes.net/charity-car-donation/cair-chicago))

## JOIN US

7. Apply for an internship/externship/law clerkship ([www.cairchicago.org/intern-center](http://www.cairchicago.org/intern-center))
8. Volunteer with us ([www.cairchicago.org/volunteer-center](http://www.cairchicago.org/volunteer-center))
9. Participate in one of our many events, rallies, workshops and Annual Banquet

# Staff & Board



The Chicago Office  
of the Council on  
American-Islamic  
Relations  
Chicago Chapter

17 N. State Street  
Suite 1500  
Chicago IL, 60602

t: 312.212.1520

f: 312.212.1530

[info@cairchicago.org](mailto:info@cairchicago.org)  
[www.cairchicago.org](http://www.cairchicago.org)

## **Executive Director**

Ahmed Rehab

## **Deputy Director**

Sufyan Sohel, Esq.

## **Litigation Rights Director**

Kevin Vodak, Esq.

## **Staff Attorney**

Rabya Khan, Esq.

## **Communications Coordinators**

Aymen Abdel Halim

Maryam Arain

Ambreen Zuberi

Leena Saleh

## **Outreach Coordinator**

Gerald Hankerson

## **Operations Coordinator**

Mohamed Abdelati

## **Executive Assistant & Office Coordinator**

Noor Salahuddin

*Mazen Kudaimi, MD - Chairman*

*(Safaa Zarzour, Esq. - Ex-Officio)*

*Prof. M. Cherif Bassiouni - Honorary Chair*







**CAIR**  
CHICAGO

---

[www.cairchicago.org](http://www.cairchicago.org)

17 N. State St., Suite 1500

Chicago, IL 60602

312•212•1520