

# CAIR-CHICAGO

2015 ANNUAL REPORT





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.



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## TESTIMONIALS



“I commend the Council on American-Islamic Relations-Chicago for its commitment to the Muslim American community, and to impacting community, culture, and change every day.”

RAHM EMANUEL,  
MAYOR OF CHICAGO



“By protecting and defending the constitutional rights of American Muslims, you support the rights of all Americans.”

DICK DURBIN,  
U.S. SENATOR, ILLINOIS



# FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In its twelve years of service, CAIR-Chicago has handled over **3,800 legal cases** of anti-Muslim discrimination, negotiated over **\$1.3 million** directly to clients of resolved discrimination cases, conducted over **1,200 mainstream media interviews**, and graduated **589 interns**.

CAIR-Chicago continued its legacy of success over the course of 2015.

We were able to resolve key civil rights cases to the benefit of our clients **including citizenship delay and employment discrimination** cases. We continued with our landmark **Prison Project** advocating for the rights of Muslim inmates, and our **Political Asylum** project, serving mostly Syrians escaping certain persecution. Our trial attorneys won settlements for clients of discrimination in excess of \$75,000.

“CAIR-Chicago is the only specialized, full-time organization in the state of Illinois working to represent the Muslim community in the courthouse and the newsroom alike, that is in the legal arena in terms of its civil rights, and on the airwaves in terms of its public image.”

In 2014, our representatives were hosted dozens of times on networks such as **CNN, FOX News, MSNBC, Al Hurra, Al Jazeera, RT, France24, ABC CBS, NBC, ABC, WGN and NPR** among others; as well as the **Chicago Tribune, the Daily Herald, the Chicago Sun-Times, and the Wall Street Journal** among other newspapers and websites. In each case, We sought to bring a lucid Muslim perspective on pressing issues putting out the **raw facts**

on the American Muslim community and the **values of our democracy**.

Our communications department continued to trail blaze, launching the first “cartooning internship” of its kind at any non-profit, in order to create and publish **political cartoons** in-house. We forayed heavily into strategic deployment of **social media tools**; for example, our BuzzFeed quiz garnered 50,000 views and three of our memes went viral on Facebook and Twitter. This year, we gave a **design overhaul** to our website and designed a new mobile-friendly site (our 8th website redesign in 12 years).

Our Google News indexed flagship blog, the Chicago Monitor, continued to make splashes covering current affairs of import to the Muslim community and the American public that often get glossed over in the mainstream media. Over **100 unique columnists** from among our staff and beyond are contributing writers. We are especially proud of the **young talents** whom we helped cultivate into empowered voices eloquently expressing themselves and their communities.

2015 witnessed **heavy community engagement**. Our staff gave guest lectures, keynote speeches, commencement speeches, and panel discussions at dozens of **universities and public schools** in Illinois and the Midwest. We also held dozens of workshops at **mosques and Islamic schools**.

This year, we also took our **government relations and civic engagement program** to the next level. For the first time in our chapter’s history, we published voter education guides, legislative scorecards and referendum guides for the Chicago municipal elections. We co-sponsored a Chicago mayoral candidate form; and we recruited election judges, poll watchers and exit surveyors along with our partners, an effort that studies showed **boosted voter turnout** in areas that traditionally had low voter turnout.

We are taking the lead on behalf of Illinois Muslims in standing with our interfaith partners and immigrant communities to advocate for **comprehensive immigration reform**. And we continue to administer programs to our youth, including **MYLS (Muslim Youth Leadership**



“With our values of faith in God, confidence in our abilities, strength in our resolve and tirelessness in our efforts, we are a community that is unshakable and unbreakable.”

AHMED REHAB, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Symposium) to ensure that they are impervious to radical ideologies as well as the effects of bullying and hatermongering.

Our **state-of-the-art office center** in downtown Chicago continues to serve as the home base of bustling Muslim activism serving this great city and state right at its heart.

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

We are there when and where it matters.

Please continue to read through this annual report for a detailed review of our work in the year 2015, and a look at 75 letters of support from elected officials! Remember to visit [cairchicago.org](http://cairchicago.org) for our full archives on 12 years of service. We hope that you will continue to support us!

Sincerely,

*A. Rehab*



## Our 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.

### **BEING PROACTIVE**

Create programs that predict and preemptively challenge potential problems.

### **OMNIPRESENCE**

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

### **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**

Reach out to support faith based communities who face similar grievances as our own.

### **ACCESSIBILITY**

Easy to find and reach whether by members of our community or members of the media.

### **SINCERITY**

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

### **PROFESSIONALISM**

Objective and presentable.

CAIR-Chicago is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization registered independently in Illinois. We raise our own funds from our local constituency and set our own operational and strategic agenda. We are proud to be celebrating our twelfth year.



*CAIR-Chicago staff helped organize vigils across the city after three Muslim youth were murdered in Chapel Hill, NC.*

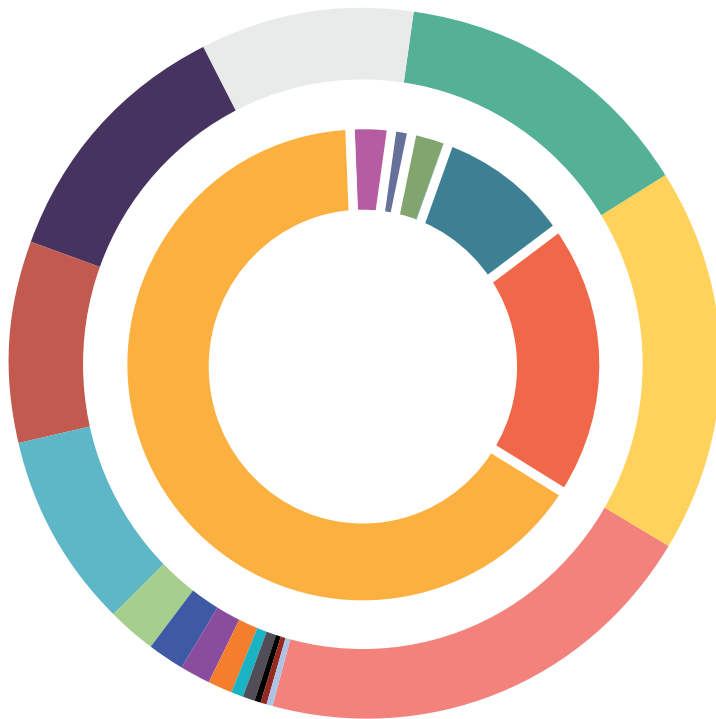


*Executive Director Ahmed Rehab and Laith Saud film a public engagement project, encouraging passers by to "Ask Me About Islam."*



# 2015 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## Expenses By Department (OUTSIDE)



Organizational Support	\$1,103.60
Meals & Entertainment	\$1,688.23
Travel & Meetings	\$2,161.04
Marketing & Advertisement	\$4,227.46
Postage	\$3,808.09
Office Supplies & Expenses	\$7,074.97
Contract Services	\$8,070.15
Accounting Fees & Bank Charges	\$11,438.75
Research	\$15,327.53
Administrative	\$56,666.00
Communications & Media	\$60,485.05
Outreach & Youth Development	\$76,666.00
Events & Fundraising	\$63,373.91
Benefits, Taxes, & Insurance	\$89,932.92
Office Lease & Utilities	\$113,532.65
Civil Rights Expenses	\$133,538.60

## Expenses By Category (INSIDE)

Travel & Meeting Expenses	\$4,952.87
Litigation Expenses	\$16,013.00
Contract & Vendor Services	\$19,508.90
Events & Fundraising	\$63,373.91
Business & Operational Expenses	\$120,607.62
Salaries, Benefits, & Payroll Taxes	\$424,638.65

Total Expenses  
\$649,094.95

Total Income \$646,139.80

Settlement Proceeds	\$22,325.00	Direct Public Support	\$623,814.80
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# CIVIL RIGHTS DEPARTMENT

Throughout 2015, the Civil Rights Department of CAIR-Chicago continued its critical work of advocating against discrimination toward Muslims in America, litigating when necessary to fully protect their civil liberties. More than 400 complaints were reported to the Department just this year, exceeding the amount of complaints in any previous year during CAIR-Chicago's history. Litigation Director Kevin Vodak, Staff Attorney Rabya Khan, and Trial Attorney Phil Robertson maximized the department's limited resources to assist the local Muslim-American community in numerous areas, working with government officials, business leaders, and legal counsel to resolve both systemic and individual issues.

Cases investigated and pursued by the Department in 2015 included employment discrimination, immigration-related complaints, the denial of religious accommodations for driver's license applicants, FBI harassment, and school bullying. CAIR-Chicago's work in immigration cases included prosecuting dozens of delays in citizenship, work authorization, and green card applications, as well as the initial filing of a number of asylum applications and applications for Temporary Placement Status.

**“This year the Civil Rights Department has continued to maintain it's high standard of excellence as the only organization in Illinois with on-staff lawyers working everyday to defend the civil rights of American-Muslims.”**

**PHIL ROBERTSON,  
TRIAL ATTORNEY**



*CAIR-Chicago staff meeting in the offices state of the art conference room.*





*Staff Attorney Rabya Khan welcomed new Trial Attorney Phil Roberston into CAIR-Chicago's Civil Rights Team in September.*

## ASYLUM PROJECT

In March 2014, CAIR-Chicago started the Asylum Project. Due to the Syrian Civil War and continued strife in many Muslim countries, there continues to be an increasing number of Muslims seeking asylum in the United States. The Civil Rights Department currently has a dozen affirmative asylum applications pending before the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service. The asylum clients (mostly from Syria and Egypt) include students, physicians, professors, and activists. As part of the Asylum Project, the Department also helps the asylees file their applications for temporary protected status (TPS) and employment authorization (EAD).

In addition, CAIR-Chicago has assisted a number of immigrants seeking Legal Permanent Residency status (Green Cards) and grants of citizenship whose applications have been delayed in processing or have not been acted upon in a reasonable time. CAIR-Chicago works with the U.S. Immigration Service administratively to determine where the application is in the process and what can be done to remove any remaining obstacles to citizenship, and files suit against the government when necessary to obtain relief for clients.

## EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION

The Department handled a variety of employment discrimination cases in 2015 before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), the Illinois Department of Human Rights (IDHR), and the Chicago Commission on Human Rights (CCHR). CAIR-Chicago brought an action along with the EEOC against National Tire and Battery for workplace discrimination against a Muslim man, resulting in a Consent Decree that awarded \$22,500.00 to the client and required NTB to conduct annual sensitivity training for its managers. Before the IDHR, CAIR-Chicago brought an action on behalf of a Muslim man who was verbally assaulted at a national department store by a security guard. The CCHR heard cases brought by CAIR-Chicago on behalf of a Muslim woman who was required to remove her hijab while teaching at a day care facility, a Muslim woman who was threatened by hate speech and retaliation by her Not-for-Profit employer, and a Muslim woman who was terminated at her position at a dentist's office for wearing her hijab at work. CAIR-Chicago also filed a charge with the EEOC on behalf of a Muslim woman who was subjected to regular and repeated verbal discrimination at work. Additionally, CAIR-Chicago brought suit against Advocate Health Systems on behalf of a Muslim woman who was denied accommodations for religious worship and was subjected to retaliatory treatment as a result of her ethnic origin and religion, and against a School District for the retaliatory discharge of a Muslim substitute teacher which resulted in a settlement award of more than \$25,000.00 for the client.

# CIVIL RIGHTS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## CITIZENSHIP/PERMANENT RESIDENCY DELAY

- The Department has directly assisted more than **300 Muslim immigrants** to become naturalized as U.S. citizens or to gain Legal Permanent Residency after facing extensive delays, and has advised more than 600 individuals on their immigration benefits applications.

## DIRECT RESOURCE FOR VICTIMS

- CAIR-Chicago attorneys have handled over **3800 cases of anti-Muslim discrimination**.
- In the past eight years, CAIR-Chicago has negotiated the payment of nearly **\$1.3 million directly to clients** from resolved discrimination cases.
- CAIR-Chicago has **conducted sensitivity and diversity trainings** to law enforcement officials, employees and managers of private businesses, faculty and administrators of public and private schools, and offenders of hate crimes.

## FBI HARASSMENT

- More than **200 individuals** have been advised by the Department in addressing contacts by FBI agents.

## EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION

- The Department has advised more than 700 Muslim employees regarding their potential claims of employment discrimination.
- CAIR-Chicago has worked both locally and on a national level to improve EEOC policies and procedures to better address Muslim employees' charges of discrimination.

## ZONING DENIALS

- Beginning with the Irshad Learning Center, for which the Department obtained judgment in its favor in 2013, CAIR-Chicago has represented mosques facing zoning issues. That same year, CAIR-Chicago filed suit against the City of Des Plaines for denying a zoning map amendment that would have allowed the

American Islamic Center to build a new mosque for its growing membership. In October 2015, the Court allowed the U.S. Department of Justice to intervene in the matter in support of CAIR-Chicago and the Center's claims of religious discrimination against the City.

## PRISON PROJECT

- The Department has provided more than **300 inmates** with legal advice regarding their rights to religious accommodations.
- Beginning in 2012, the Department has coordinated volunteers to provide food donations to Chicago-area inmates during Eid celebrations.

## TRAVEL FREE PROJECT

- The Department directly advises Muslim travelers who are delayed, detained, or interrogated by law enforcement officers, primarily due to their names being placed on watchlists by the Transportation and Security Administration (TSA) and other Federal agencies. Assistance has included filing Traveler Redress Inquiry Program (TRIP) complaints, issuing Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, and working with government officials from the Federal Aviation Administration and the Department of Transportation to resolve the problems.



*After years of valuable service CAIR-Chicago said goodbye to Civil Rights Director Kevin Vodak and Staff Attorney Rabya Khan (from left) Rabya Khan, Fatima Ahmed, Former Law Clerk, Kevin Vodak, Kevin Vodak's Son, Ahmed Rehab, Renner Larson, Former Law Clerk, Gerald Hankerson*





### HATE CRIMES

The Department is routinely contacted by community members who have experienced hate crimes as a result of their religion. When a Muslim woman in a Chicago suburb was harassed by a flyer posted in her neighborhood threatening her and her family, CAIR-Chicago worked with the Cook County State's Attorney's Office and the local police to investigate the matter and monitor the situation. When a Muslim woman received hate e-mails through her social media account, CAIR-Chicago worked with the company and the FBI to investigate the sources of the e-mails. When a Muslim student was bullied at school, CAIR-Chicago worked with the family, the school, and the student to develop an action plan so he could continue his studies there without further harassment.

### RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION

In 2008, nearly 40 Muslim Somali workers at the JBS Swift plant, in Grand Island, Nebraska, were terminated after striking and petitioning the employer for prayer accommodations. The employer required them to pray only during their designated breaks, at times that were not consistent with scheduled prayer times. CAIR-Chicago and the EEOC brought suit in Nebraska District Court on behalf of the terminated workers who, in addition to their "failure to accommodate" claims, were also subjected to numerous incidents of individual discrimination by co-workers and company management. CAIR-Chicago and the EEOC continued to aggressively litigate the matter throughout 2015, including engaging in extensive discovery and defeating numerous motions to dismiss the case. It is set for trial in May 2016.

### CIVIL RIGHTS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

On October 6, 2015, Phil Robertson, Rabya Khan, and Ahmed Rehab participated in a U.S. Department of Homeland Security mosque safety conference. The conference was called to address the recent rise in Islamophobic incidents directed at mosques and Muslim community centers, and was attended by the FBI, DHS, and a number of civic and religious leaders from around the country.



*Trial Attorney Phil Robertson served on a panel discussing zoning discrimination.*



# CIVIL RIGHTS DEPARTMENT CASES 2015

## Total Intakes

## Cases Closed

404

401

## Cases Reported

94

Immigration

64

Employment

40

Hate Crime

30

Federal Bureau  
of Investigation

21

Criminal

21

Custody

19

School

18

Prison

13

Public  
Accommodation

13

Airport

13

Police

3

General



*Deputy Director Sufyan Sohel speaks at  
"Impact" CAIR-Chicago's 11th Annual Banquet*

“CAIR-Chicago stands as an institution dedicated to countering hatred in an increasingly bigoted political climate. Our expert team is proud to take on the challenges our community continues to face.”

SUFYAN SOHEL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR



*Executive Director Ahmed Rehab presents at  
the University of Illinois at Chicago*





## OUTREACH DEPARTMENT

*Students from DePaul University visit CAIR-Chicago to learn the unique profile and issues of the Muslim American community.*

The Outreach Department aims to educate and build bridges between Muslims and diverse communities in the greater Chicago metro region, establish partnerships with other civil rights and advocacy organizations, and bolster CAIR-Chicago's ability to serve its constituents in Chicago's Muslim communities. To this end, the Outreach Department leads CAIR-Chicago's youth leadership programs, internship and volunteer activist programs, interfaith and intercultural initiatives, and educational seminars.

Since CAIR began tracking hate incidents, 2015 was the worst year on record for Muslim Americans since 9/11—beginning with the infamous Chapel Hill massacre to backlash following the Islamophobic vitriol spewed on the presidential campaign trail with the Paris and San Bernardino terror attacks. Given this drastic rise in anti-Muslim sentiment coupled with reports of intimidation and violence, the questions and concerns not only from the Muslim community but Americans of all backgrounds

**“We all can be equipped to fight hatred & injustice with heart, facts, engagement & solidarity.”**

**GERALD HANKERSON,  
OUTREACH COORDINATOR**

and persuasion came to answer the question: Is the future promised for a chosen few or for all? Advocacy, solidarity, dialogue, and facts against hatred and injustice are essential tools for each person to meet this challenge. Such pivotal moments call us to protect our nation's values, to uphold civil and human rights. CAIR-Chicago will continue to meet this challenge alongside all who truly seek harmony and justice.





## PUBLIC EDUCATION & ACADEMIA

CAIR-Chicago staff members from all departments were invited to speak at or host groups at prominent educational institutions that included Carthage College (WI), Columbia College, DePaul College Prep (formerly Gordon Tech), DePaul University, Governors State University, Harold Washington College, Indiana University–Bloomington, Lake Forest College, Loyola University Chicago, Northwestern University, Purdue University, Saint Xavier University (SXU), Stevenson High School, Truman College, the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Westwood College, Wheaton College, Wilmington College (OH) and Wright College.

The topics ranged from basic educational seminars to more nuanced issues such as Muslim demographics and current sociopolitical issues in the U.S., curtailing law enforcement abuses, and identity politics.

Of special note, two staff members were honored with invitations to deliver the keynote commencement address for graduating classes: Outreach Coordinator Gerald Hankerson at Aldridge Elementary School in Chicago, and Executive Director Ahmed Rehab at College Preparatory School of America (CPSA) in Lombard.

For years, interns from all departments—with diverse backgrounds, interests and perspectives—have contributed to CAIR-Chicago’s broader advocacy and awareness efforts. Here are some key issues from Outreach and Government Affairs team members have contributed via CAIR-Chicago’s sites and social media:

- **World Has Forgotten Gaza, But Gazan Children Can’t Forget**
- **Interpreting the 1st Amendment in the Wake of Charlie Hebdo**
- **Torture in Our Own Backyard: Chicago’s Story, America’s Dilemma**
- **Appropriating Black, Asian, & Islamic Culture for Entertainment**
- **Did the Chinese Government Really Ban Ramadan?**
- **The Hidden Actors in UCLA’s Divestment Campaign**
- **Treatment of Mental Health Issues in the Muslim Community**
- **Yemen: The Other U.S. Supported Middle East War**

## MOSQUE & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

CAIR-Chicago staff delivered Friday sermons (khutbahs) at some of the largest mosques in the city and state in an effort to promote key civic and humanitarian ideals fostered in Islam’s teachings, and to bridge the mosque audiences with the resources that CAIR-Chicago offers.

CAIR-Chicago hosted or co-sponsored several events revealing the year’s most discussed sociopolitical issues, as well as forming stronger bonds with organizations and our communities. CAIR-Chicago came together with local groups to host an interfaith candlelight vigil for Chapel Hill massacre at Loyola School of Law. In an effort to understand the psychology behind mosque controversies, the office partnered with Silk Road Rising to host screening and discussion of *Mosque Alert* for the third straight year.

Ramadan 2015 provided several key events to address awareness and solidarity. For the seventh consecutive year, the annual Taste of Ramadan Iftar & Cook-off welcomed 200 community members and supporters in another record number of dishes, desserts and beverages reflecting cuisines from around the world.



*CAIR-Chicago joined the Japanese-American Citizens League for a month-long youth program called Bridging Communities that brought together Japanese, Muslim, and other American youth to study the similar experiences of post 9/11 Muslim communities and WWII Japanese American communities. The group had the pleasure of visiting Rohwer Internment Camp and other historic civil rights sites in Arkansas.*

# OUTREACH DEPARTMENT

## INTERNSHIP & VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

CAIR-Chicago is indebted to the interns and volunteer activists (VAs) who assist our staff to empower, mobilize, and engage our communities.

In 2015, the coveted program marked its 10th anniversary of developing young activists and professionals in the areas of civil rights, media, civic engagement, community outreach and research. Between 2005 and 2014, CAIR-Chicago graduated a combined 589 internships, externships and volunteering tenures.

Last year, the office graduated 42 interns, externs and fellows, along with 14 volunteer activists, from across the United States, Australia, China, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and the United Kingdom.



Operations Coordinator Fatima Ahmed trains incoming interns for the Summer 2015 session.



Interns participate in an immersion day activity organized by Outreach Coordinator Gerald Hankerson (standing).

CAIR-Chicago enjoys a thriving partnership with over 210 national universities and colleges throughout Chicagoland and the nation to offer their students internship and volunteer opportunities year round.

## Internships are available through:

- Boston College
- Boston University
- Carthage College
- Columbia College
- Columbia University
- DePaul University
- Emory University
- Georgetown University
- Illinois State University
- Indiana University at Bloomington
- Loyola University Chicago (LUC)
- Northeastern Illinois University
- Northwestern University
- Occidental College
- Princeton University
- Purdue University-Calumet
- Robert Morris University
- Roosevelt University
- University of California at Los Angeles
- University of Chicago
- University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC)
- University of Illinois at Springfield
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- University of Kansas
- University of Missouri at Columbia
- University of Notre Dame

## Externships are available through:

- Chicago-Kent College of Law, Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT)
- DePaul College of Law
- Hamlin University Law School
- The John Marshall Law School
- LUC School of Law
- Northwestern University School of Law
- University of Chicago Law School
- University of Illinois College of Law
- University of Notre Dame Law School
- Valparaiso University Law School



## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Since 2011, the Outreach department has led civic engagement efforts in order to educate and mobilize community members to respond appropriately to policies that affects all Americans.

For the first time in the chapter's history, the Outreach department published voter education guides, as well as a legislative scorecard and referendum guide, for the Chicago municipal elections. In addition, CAIR-Chicago joined AAAJ and local advocacy groups to sponsor a Chicago mayoral candidate forum held at Northeastern Illinois University.

Ensuring that more people have a stake in democracy and access to the polls, CAIR-Chicago continued its support for recruiting college students to serve as election judges, poll watching and exit surveyors, an effort shared with over two dozen organizations. In the fall of 2015, a study published shared that this group's efforts significantly boosted voter turnout, especially in areas that traditionally had very low numbers. Lastly, CAIR-Chicago supported efforts to recruit students as election judges, as well as register voters.

CAIR-Chicago renewed its call for Illinois congressional members to support legislation that would reinforce civil liberties. Hankerson and members of Government

Affairs met with Congress woman Jan Schakowsky and Congressman Mike Quigley's senior staff to discuss maintaining strong ties with their Muslim constituents. The office joined the Illinois Coalition to Protect Academic Freedom and Free Speech and mobilized community members to voice their concerns for proposed state legislation (then later a resolution) that would penalize state universities and colleges for institutional boycotts against sovereign nations (IL SB 3017). Finally, the office joined local coalition efforts that would ensure fair, nonpartisan redistricting that would take into account every Illinois community.

## For 2015, Outreach sought the positions and pledges from elected federal, state and local officials to act on the following issues:

- Action Alert: Testify Online against IL Anti-Boycott Bill—This bill infringes on the First Amendment rights companies have to protest human rights and international law violations through Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions.
- Action Alert: Demand a Stop to the Politicizing of Our Pension System to punish free speech
- Action Alert: Urge Congress to Pass Amendments Asking to Evacuate U.S. Citizens from Yemen, Close Prison at Guantanamo Bay
- CAIR-Chicago Commends Illinois in Establishing Malcolm X Day

*(left) Outreach Coordinator Gerald Hankerson and interns participate in a Fight for \$15 rally in front of McDonald's world HQ to learn about civic activism with interfaith labor rights group Arise Chicago.*







*With Bridging Communities CAIR-Chicago organized an intercultural trip to Little Rock, AR, learning about discrimination.*

## INTERFAITH ENGAGEMENT

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

Much connection between interfaith and social justice has always been featured in CAIR-Chicago's efforts. Through its partnership with the interfaith labor rights group Arise Chicago, CAIR-Chicago stood in support of workers' rights that reflect local and national fronts. We stood in solidarity with the ongoing "Fight for 15" movement, brought hundreds of workers and their supporters to the world headquarters of McDonald's in Oak Brook, and joined strikers of the Golan Moving & Storage, Inc. and faith leaders in Skokie—Hankerson spoke how justice transcends differences and moves us to become united.

The Outreach Department also connected with local partners to infuse dialogue amid new tests to halt progress with interfaith efforts local and abroad. Along with JCUA, Outreach coordinated an event tied to the Chicago Community Trust's "On the Table 2015" initiative to assess how the local Muslim and Jewish community can continue to forge genuine interfaith cooperation. The two organizations joined together with American Islamic College to host the inaugural "Hanukkah at the Mosque" gathering. Finally, our longtime partners Catholic Theological Union's Peacebuilders Initiative brought high school upperclassmen of the Abrahamic traditions for dialogue and interactive workshops on the topic of "the stranger", where Outreach Coordinator Gerald Hankerson spoke on the panel giving the Muslim perspective.

Finally, the Outreach department advised a Wheaton College political science professor, Dr. Larycia Hawkins, on her desire to wear the hijab in solidarity with Muslim women and girls who've faced Islamophobia.



*Ahmed Rehab joined local civil rights and religious spoke on behalf of Chicago area Muslims to convey appreciation for Dr. Larycia Hawkins at a press event.*



*Fatima Ahmed lead youth participants in a workshop during the Bridging Communities program.*

## INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

CAIR-Chicago welcomed international delegations of civic leaders, scholars, educators, students, activists, and law enforcement officials through partnerships with WorldChicago (formerly the International Visitors Center of Chicago), the Global Youth Leadership Institute (GYLI), and the Council of International Programs (CIP)-Chicago. All delegates were guests of the U.S. Department of State. Delegations in 2015 included representatives from France, Georgia, Iraq and the United Kingdom.



## EVENTS

Some of the events led by the Outreach Department included:

- CAIR-Chicago joins local advocacy groups to co-sponsor Chicago mayoral candidate forum at NEIU; Produces its 1st Chicago municipal voter guide and mayoral candidate scorecard
- CAIR-Chicago co-sponsors interfaith vigil for Chapel Hill massacre at LUC School of Law & Evanston Rally in Solidarity with Muslims
- CAIR-Chicago hosts screening and discussion of Silk Road Rising's *Mosque Alert*
- Chicagoland Muslim & Japanese American youth engage history of Japanese internment in Arkansas
- Outreach Coordinator Gerald Hankerson named 2015 Chicago Urban Debate Alum of the Year
- CAIR-Chicago issues statement of solidarity with Armenian people on genocide's centennial
- Hankerson speaks on civil liberties panel at Good Pitch event; on anti-hate panel at UIC film screening
- Hankerson keynotes at Aldridge School Commencement; Ahmed Rehab at CPSA
- CAIR-Chicago co-sponsors event for International Survivors of Torture Awareness Day
- CAIR-Chicago reviews plays at Victory Gardens & the Goodman Theater amid community concerns
- CAIR-Chicago secures religious accommodations at DMV; Talks about impact on Yahala Voice
- CAIR-Chicago supports march for Chicago police accountability; Delivers Eid donations to Muslim Inmates
- Congresswoman Schakowsky and senior staff of Congressman Quigley pledge to work with CAIR-Chicago; Meets with Gov. Rauner's senior staff
- CAIR-Chicago meets with French dignitaries
- CAIR-Chicago commends Emanuel for refugee action
- CAIR-Chicago Celebrates College Student Election Judge Program's Positive Impact on Voter Access & Accommodation at the Polls
- CAIR-Chicago Presents at 1st Annual Muslim Youth Expo
- Ahmed Rehab spoke to hundreds of students at the University of Illinois and Purdue University on the challenges of ISIS
- CAIR-Chicago joins JCUA & AIC in hosting inaugural "Hanukkah at the Mosque" event



# COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT



Spring 2015 saw the launch of a new and improved [cairchicago.org](http://cairchicago.org) which is now mobile ready and redesigned.



Ahmed Rehab reacted on Fox News to presidential candidate Donald Trump's proposal to ban all Muslims from the U.S.

## MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH

The CAIR-Chicago Communications Department ensures that Muslim perspectives and concerns on vital issues and incidents are taken into account in mainstream media. Both nationally and locally, the department achieves this goal with timely press conferences and releases, and media advisories.

As a result of CAIR-Chicago's dedicated staff, and its fine record and reputation with media outlets, the chapter is often approached by producers and journalists seeking to provide well-informed coverage of issues related to Islamophobia. As media activists, our staff brought a lucid voice to the public conversation on issues making headlines including the Chapel Hill shootings, the "clock boy" story, the San Bernardino shootings, the string of anti-Muslim harassment at airport gates, the anti-Muslim polemics emanating out of the presidential primaries, and more.

2015 saw the Communications Department rise to meet the growing challenges of a demanding year. Islamophobia has risen to the mainstream this year, lifted by outrageous national figures like Bill Maher, Ben Carson, and Donald Trump. CAIR-Chicago's Communication Department has been a key figure in pushing back locally and nationally. We have innovated the fight against bigotry. After Islamophobes like Pamela Gellar used cartoons as a vehicle for hate to lash out against us in the guise of free speech, the department founded the first Political Cartooning Internship of its kind to push back. When Ahmed Mohamed was arrested for bringing a homemade clock to school our viral response was featured on CNN, MSNBC, RT and dozens of other outlets. Over the summer a BuzzFeed quiz created by the Department, comparing similarities between teachings of the Quran and Bible received well over 50,000 views. We are proud to gain traction in these new media frontiers and look forward to utilizing tomorrow's tech tools to continue this important work.

As the primary means of contact and updates with the communities we support, our Department has placed special emphasis this year on redesigning CAIR-Chicago's website and eNewsletter, the Chicago Activist. Both platforms are now successfully launched with responsive new layouts that make it easier for the public to get the information they need when they need it on a computer, smart phone, or other device.

This is all made possible by the Department's relationships with the Chicagoland community broadly, and the students groups, bloggers, and cultural institutions that it is composed of. These community members share our goal of empowering cross-cultural understanding, and using media activism as a medium to affect change.

**YouTube** Subscribers **339+**

 Facebook Likes **4,149+**

 Twitter Followers **5,742+**

CAIR-Chicago's tweet in solidarity with Ahmed Mohamed, a Muslim teen arrested for bringing a homemade clock to school, went viral and was featured in national media coverage.



“The Communications Department continues to innovate how media activism pushes for change with evolving digital tools.”

RENNER LARSON, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR



The above cartoon by Cartooning Intern Vanessa Barajas went viral over the Thanksgiving holiday. The internship is the first internship of its kind in the nation.

#### ONLINE ACTIVISM

In an increasingly digital, connected world, news breaks locally, nationally, and globally simultaneously. The Communications Department is always prepared for what's coming next -- whether that means viral stories, or social media campaigns. This year the department also launched its cartooning internship, which proved to be an effective new tool for combating Islamophobes. In November one of our cartoons went viral during a wave of the xenophobic comments by Republican presidential candidates and governors, tackling the ridiculous and rampant fear-mongering that became a hallmark of the GOP presidential race.

The Department ensures that CAIR-Chicago is always engaged in the conversation through its social media accounts on Twitter, Facebook, and Youtube. Always up to date and accessible to the community, the important web-presence makes sure that community members are always in the loop, able to get in touch quickly, and able report Islamophobia in real time.

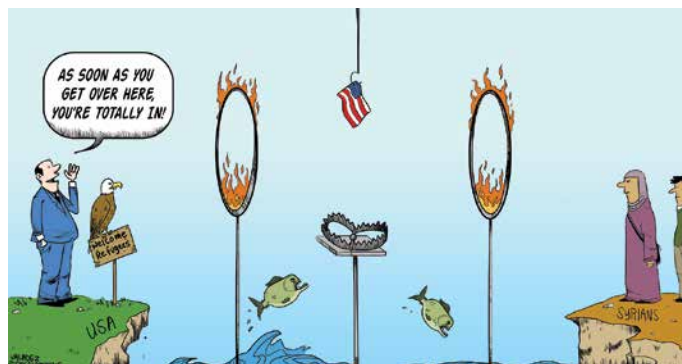


# THE CHICAGO MONITOR

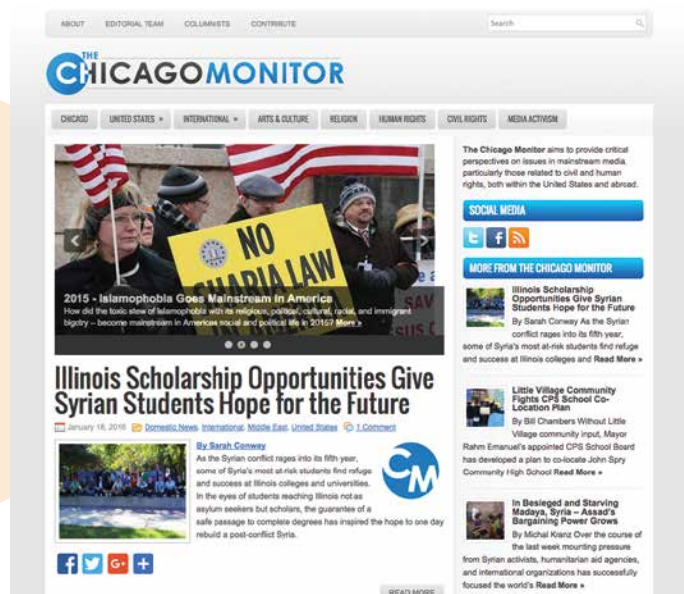
The Chicago Monitor was founded in 2012 by CAIR Chicago Executive Director Ahmed Rehab to offer a platform for activists to produce works that challenge mainstream media coverage by providing alternative perspectives on social justice as well as civil and human rights issues. The Chicago Monitor writers include CAIR Chicago staff, interns, and volunteers from around the world and the site has attracted thousands of international and local visitors.

This year The Chicago Monitor more thoroughly covered important Chicago stories including the yearlong fight for community control of the Chicago Police Department; the impact of budget cuts on mental health services, homelessness, and education; epidemic of gun violence; and the challenges to Mayor Rahm Emanuel's administration. The Chicago Monitor was the first local news service to call for the Mayor's resignation in an editorial. Multiple international stories were covered in depth including the war in Yemen; struggles of the Syrian refugees; nuclear talks with Iran; elections in Israel; plight of the Rohingya in Burma; and the issues of Indian Muslims. Topics related to Palestine continued to be reported including the sentencing and appeal of Palestinian community leader Rasmia Odeh; the national campaign against detention of Palestinian children; local Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) campaigns; and the struggle of the people in Gaza. On the national level, the local impact of the Black Lives Matter movement and its intersection with reform of the criminal justice system had ongoing coverage. The Chicago Monitor ran a series called "Policing the Politicians" that provided a guide to the positions of the Democratic and Republican candidates for president on Immigration, combating ISIS, the Charleston killings, and attitude toward Islam and Islamophobia. A number of issues of significance to the Muslim community were treated including the growth of Islamophobia during 2015; treatment of mental health issues; challenging abuse within the community; and the successful campaign to designate May 19 as Malcolm X Day in Illinois.

For all of these important events of 2015, The Chicago Monitor not only responded, but delivered new insights into the human rights aspects and community impact of these stories. 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 and human rights campaigns.



The above cartoon by Cartooning Intern Vanessa Barajas illustrated the outrageous reaction of American governors across the country after executives in over half the states, including Illinois refused to take refugees.





*The Chicago Monitor covered national and local events including a large solidarity rally in Evanston, Ill., attended by hundreds including the suburb's mayor and Northwestern University's president Morton Schapiro.*



“This year the Chicago Monitor greatly expanded its coverage of significant local, national, and international events.

Many major stories were followed throughout the year including the Black Lives Matter movement, police crimes in Chicago, mental health services and education in Chicago, Syrian refugees, and the impact of the war in Yemen on the local Yemeni community.



**BILL CHAMBERS,**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

This year we published 160 articles, an increase of 30 over 2014 and featured over 50 individual contributors with almost half outside our staff. In 2015, we added an editorial cartoonist who was able to effectively lampoon many of the figures in the news, especially Donald Trump. Going forward, we have obtained press credentials from the Chicago Police Department to improve our access to Chicago breaking news. From our coverage of important community stories, to media analysis of news not covered elsewhere, and ongoing reporting on important stories, we have continued to expand the scope of our news analysis, our original reporting, and the diversity of our audience.”



RICHARD J. DURBIN  
ILLINOIS  
ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC LEADER

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-1504

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
COMMITTEE ON RULES  
AND ADMINISTRATION

February 20, 2016

Dear Friends:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome all of you to CAIR-Chicago’s 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet. Tonight’s gathering is a wonderful opportunity to recognize CAIR-Chicago’s great work to promote justice and tolerance.

For more than a decade, CAIR-Chicago has been working to preserve the civil rights of American Muslims, fight bigotry, and promote tolerance. By protecting and defending the constitutional rights of American Muslims, you support the rights of all Americans. At a time in our country where hateful rhetoric is all too common, this year’s theme, “Up for the Challenge” is particularly important. America is at its best when we embrace our diversity. I applaud your tireless commitment to empowering American Muslims in Chicago and beyond.

Again, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to tonight’s attendees for your dedication to the CAIR-Chicago. Congratulations on all your work and achievements, and I wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

Very truly yours,

*Richard J. Durbin*  
Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL  
MAYOR

February 20, 2016



Dear Friends:

As Mayor, and on behalf of the City of Chicago, it is my pleasure to extend warm greetings to everyone gathered for the the Council on American-Islamic Relations-Chicago's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet.

Since its establishment in 1994, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) has become the largest non-profit Muslim and civil rights advocacy organization in the nation. Over twenty years later, CAIR continues its tireless work to protect and promote the civil rights and liberties of Muslim-Americans. CAIR-Chicago advances this important work throughout the Midwest, providing a comprehensive array of invaluable services to the Muslim-American community in addition to programming for all dedicated to fostering greater understanding. The mission of CAIR-Chicago remains important to this city – and every city – because it advocates for civil rights, facilitates important community partnerships, and presents opportunities for cultural exchange and enlightenment.

This year's event themed *Up for the Challenge* presents an opportunity to celebrate the outstanding example CAIR-Chicago has provided in working for diversity and freedom of religion for all residents in our great city. Chicago's vibrant and historic Muslim American community has long played an integral role in our city's standing as cultural hub. I commend the Council on American-Islamic Relations-Chicago for its commitment to the Muslim American community, and to impacting community, culture, and change every day.

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 "Rahm Emanuel".

Mayor



**BOBBY L. RUSH**  
1ST DISTRICT, ILLINOIS  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
RANKING MEMBER, ENERGY AND POWER  
COMMERCE, MANUFACTURING, AND TRADE  
COMMITTEES AND ASST. TRANSPORT



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

ASSISTANT WHIP  
CO-CHAIR  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE CAUCUS  
CO-CHAIR  
CONGRESSIONAL COLLEGIATE SPORTS CAUCUS  
CO-CHAIR  
CONGRESSIONAL ENERGY CAUCUS

February 20, 2016



Ahmed M. Rehab  
Executive Director  
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)  
17 N. State Street, Suite 1500  
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear Mr. Rehab:

On behalf of the people of Illinois' First Congressional District, it is both an honor and a pleasure to congratulate the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) and extend a warm greeting to all who have gathered for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet. I trust it will be an informative, interesting and thought-provoking event for all.

On this special occasion, I would like to thank CAIR who has helped to foster significant growth and prosperity in the community through its successful training, education and community development programs. The 2016 event structured around the theme, "Up for the Challenge", should reassert CAIR's mission to enhance the understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, solidarity, empower American Muslims, and foster an atmosphere to build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.

I also commend the leadership of the CAIR for organizing this significant and inspiring event, which allows us an opportunity to come together to celebrate our success and draw strength from each other to push onward in our common pursuit of Life, Liberty and Justice for all. The commitment and dedication shown by the Organization has produced an ongoing motivation.

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 thus far and look forward to our united work in the future.

Sincerely,

Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress

BLR: ys

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MC

**ROBIN L. KELLY**  
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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

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CHICAGO, IL 60628  
(773) 568-2623

February 20, 2016

Council on American-Islamic Relations  
Chicago Chapter  
17 North State Street  
Suite 1500  
Chicago, Illinois 60602



Dear Friends,

I wish to extend my warmest welcome to the Illinois Muslim community as you gather for CAIR-Chicago's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet to celebrate your achievements in promoting justice, inclusion and tolerance in our communities.

I congratulate you on your work to ensure civil rights and to promote the awareness that diversity is what makes America strong. Now is the time when we must come together and let it be known that we as a region and as a nation stand for inclusion, equality, and justice for all.

I applaud your goal of furthering mutual understanding and working to move our communities forward and upward to peace and solidarity!

Please know that your work is greatly appreciated. I wish you continued success for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress

RLK/mp

LUIS V. GUTIERREZ  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS  
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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-1504

COMMITTEES:  
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SUBCOMMITTEES:  
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND  
GENERAL CREDIT  
CHAIRMAN  
HUMAN AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY POLICY  
AND TRADE  
JUDICIARY  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
IMMIGRATION, CITIZENSHIP, REFUGES,  
BORER SECURITY AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

February 8, 2016

CAIR Chicago  
17 N. State St. Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60602



Dear CAIR Chicago:

I write to congratulate you on your Annual Banquet as you celebrate 12 years of service in Chicago.

CAIR-Chicago is the city's leading advocacy organization for the Muslim American community. Through such efforts as political empowerment, voter registration, and civil rights defense, CAIR-Chicago has exhibited what it really means to be for the people. By monitoring the media you have been at the frontlines fighting bias and anti-Muslim rhetoric attacking your community.

It is an honor for me to congratulate you for your many years of advocacy and public service. Please know that my door remains open to you—if there is anything I can do to help you in your efforts, do not hesitate to ask. Thank you and once again congratulations!

Sincerely,

Luis V. Gutierrez  
Member of Congress

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER



February 20, 2016



Mr. Ahmad M. Rehab  
Executive Director  
CAIR Chicago  
17 N. State Street, Suite 1700

Dear Friends:

I wish to extend my greetings to everyone attending the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet "Up For The Challenge."

Immigrants are an important part of the history of the United States, and we should celebrate their contributions to our society and our culture. I believe our diversity is part of our country's strength and by working together we can provide better lives for all.

The work that CAIR does for our city, state, and across the nation not only enriches the Muslim community but also expands productive dialogue between cultures.

Best wishes for a successful event.

Sincerely,

Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



  
**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, D.C.

DANNY K. DAVIS  
7<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT - ILLINOIS



February 2, 2016

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

Dear Director Rehab:


Thank you for offering this opportunity to greet and welcome attendees at the CAIR-Chicago 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet Saturday, February 20, 2016 at the Drury Lane Banquet Hall in Oakbrook Terrace. I trust that this year's event, like events of past years, will be a great success.

The theme of this year's event, *Up for the Challenge*, emphasizes the importance of addressing new levels of intimidation and violence, coupled with growing anti-Muslim rhetoric. If the practice of our democracy is to live up to our vision of democracy we should remind all Americans that we live in a multi-cultural nation and that, in the final analysis, the security and strength of our nation lies in our diversity and our unity. Our mutual commitment to those rights and responsibilities are set forth in our constitution, and they have been deepened, reconfirmed and reasserted over time so as to encompass every American. These are the true core principles of our democracy and these principles have been ratified at great cost so many times over our history.

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.

Once again, welcome attendees, I am certain you are in for a highly worthwhile event, and a unique opportunity to network with community members, leaders and activists from every sector of the Muslim American community in the highest tradition of our grassroots based and driven democracy.

Sincerely,

  
Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

DKD:ic

TAMMY DUCKWORTH  
8<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT, ILLINOIS  
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES  
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT  
AND GOVERNMENT REFORM  
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**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-1308

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February 20, 2016

Council on American-Islamic Relations-Chicago  
17 North State Street, Suite 1500  
Chicago, Illinois 60602



Dear Friends,


It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to CAIR-Chicago's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet. Congratulations on another year of essential work in protecting civil rights and advocating for tolerance.

These are difficult times for the American Muslim community. 2015 was the worst year for hate incidents since 9/11. In this distressing environment, it would be easy to give up hope, become complacent and assume that this period of fear and anger will last forever. This year's theme, *Up for the Challenge*, is a strong antidote to that line of thinking.

CAIR-Chicago exemplifies the spirit of *Up for the Challenge* every day in your persistent advocacy for tolerance, respect and solidarity. It is because of the hard work of organizations like CAIR and everyone here tonight that I know our country is *Up for the Challenge* of defeating fear and discrimination. We are at our strongest when we celebrate our diversity, embrace our differences and respect all religions and ethnicities.

I want to thank CAIR-Chicago for your defense of equality, tolerance, and justice for all. Your organization serves as an inspiration to us all, and I hope you continue your efforts to bring understanding and harmony to our community. I wish you all the best in 2016.

Sincerely,

  
Tammy Duckworth  
Member of Congress  
Illinois' 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Jan Schakowsky  
9th District  
Illinois



Member of Congress  
Washington, D.C.  
202-225-2111

February 20, 2016

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to send warm greetings to everyone gathered this evening to celebrate the 12th Annual Banquet of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) Chicago. This important annual event is an opportunity to celebrate our victories, reflect on our challenges, and draw strength from each other to push onward in our common pursuit to protect civil liberties and promote civic engagement.

I strongly believe that a great source of strength for our nation comes from our great diversity. We are stronger because we are a nation made up of people with a wide range of beliefs, including Christians, Jews, and Muslims. As President Obama recently stated during his trip to a mosque in Baltimore, "you fit in here." Unfortunately, we've recently seen a significant increase in harmful anti-Muslim rhetoric and even violence. In trying times like these, CAIR-Chicago is more important than ever.

CAIR-Chicago provides a comprehensive network of support to one of the largest Muslim populations in the United States, and many of my constituents are better off as a result. In championing civil rights and advocating on behalf of victims of discrimination and hate crimes, CAIR-Chicago defends human dignity, promotes community empowerment, and fights against intolerance and bigotry. CAIR-Chicago's support for civil rights has helped ensure that our community remains a vibrant and welcoming place.

I am proud to join with CAIR-Chicago and their many partners in making civil rights a top priority. I look forward to continuing our work together to advance the ideals of peace, justice, and equality.

On behalf of the people of the 9th Congressional District of Illinois, please accept my heartiest congratulations and best wishes for your continued success.



Sincerely,

Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

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CHERI BUSTOS  
The Honorable Member  
SENIOR WIFE  
COMMITTEE  
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS  
AND PORTS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON GENERAL FARM  
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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-1317



February 8, 2016

Mr. Ahmed M. Rehab  
Executive Director  
17 N. State Street, Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Members and Leaders of CAIR-Chicago,

I am honored to welcome all of those who have gathered for the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) Chicago Chapter's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet. Congratulations on another successful year of work.

"Up for the Challenge", is an appropriate theme for this year's banquet, acknowledging that CAIR-Chicago is committed to advocacy, solidarity, equality and respect for all. The work of CAIR-Chicago has promoted principles of tolerance, religious freedom, trust and safety throughout the community. I applaud your efforts in the preservation of core American values, such as justice and equality.

Again, I would like to congratulate you on your 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. My best wishes for your continued success.

Sincerely

Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress





CONGRESSMAN ANDRÉ CARSON

February 20, 2016



As salaam alaikum!

It is an honor to welcome each of you to the CAIR-Chicago 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet. Tonight, we come together to celebrate CAIR and their continued fight for justice in our communities. Through its mission of promoting justice, understanding, and acceptance of all faiths, CAIR has dedicated itself to the true meaning of Islam.

Tonight's theme "Up for the Challenge" is fitting as we honor CAIR's work and reflect on the year to come. Each of us plays an important role in promoting mutual understanding and equal justice, but, to be effective, our community must demonstrate consistent, strategic, and unified engagement on the local and national level.

Your presence tonight signifies a willingness to take action, and I am confident that our collective efforts can yield a lasting and positive impact. Thank you again for being here this evening and please enjoy tonight's event.

I commend each and every one of you for your commitment to this organization and its mission.

Sincerely,

André Carson  
Member of Congress

PAID FOR BY THE ANDRÉ CARSON FOR CONGRESS COMMITTEE.

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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP  
CO-CHAIR CONGRESSIONAL  
PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS AND  
GOVERNMENT SPONSORED ENTERPRISES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
FINANCIAL AND INSURANCE

January 28, 2016

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



Dear Mr. Rehab:

I would like to extend my congratulations to the Chicago Chapter of the Council of American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) on yet another successful year of impactful advocacy and community engagement.

This year's theme, "Up for the Challenge," demonstrates your commitment to advocating for peace and solidarity during a critical time. Considering increases in hate crimes toward Muslim Americans throughout 2015, it is clear that your work to uphold civic and human rights is as important now as ever.

During these trying times, it is crucial that we stand together – that we continue to lead conversations with kindness and moderation. When candidates push anti-Muslim hatred, we will continue to stand strong as visible leaders in our families, mosques, and communities. While they call for us to register with the government because of our faith, we will continue to fight for equal access and fair treatment for *all* Americans. And we shouldn't stop there – when anyone in our country is vilified or excluded because of their race, religion, gender, sexuality, or any facet of their identity, we must react swiftly. An assault on our neighbor's freedom is an assault on our own freedom.

Again, congratulations on another year of impressive and important work, and I look forward to seeing your positive impacts in 2016.

Sincerely,

KEITH ELLISON  
Member of Congress

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

JESSE WHITE • Secretary of State

February 20, 2016

Ahmed M. Rehab  
President  
Council on American-Islamic Relations – Chicago Office  
17 N. State St.  
Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60602



Dear Mr. Rehab,

It is an honor to welcome all who gather for the 12th Annual Banquet for the Council on American-Islamic Relations – Chicago Office (CAIR-Chicago).

For many years, CAIR-Chicago has been dedicated to fostering political empowerment, cultural education and community-building for Muslim-Americans in this state and throughout the Midwest. It is imperative to have organizations such as this one to stand up in support and defend the civil rights of citizens in need. Combatting incidents of hate crimes and providing a collective source of support is admirable work, and I commend everyone involved.

On behalf of the people of the State of Illinois, I would like to salute CAIR-Chicago for 12 years of civic duty, public service and advocacy.

Again, congratulations on this wonderful occasion. Best wishes for a successful event and a bright tomorrow.

Sincerely,

JESSE WHITE  
Secretary of State

100 W. Randolph, Ste. 5-400,  
Chicago, IL 60601



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Lisa Madigan  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

February 20, 2016

Council on American-Islamic Relations  
Chicago Chapter  
17 N. State Street  
Suite 1500  
Chicago, Illinois 60602



Dear Friends,

As Illinois Attorney General, I am honored to welcome you to CAIR-Chicago's 12th 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.

To say that we are faced with challenging times would be an understatement. CAIR has again chosen an appropriate theme given these trying times: "Up for the Challenge." We are challenged today not to fall into a trap where hateful actions of a few poison relations among all of us. CAIR plays a vital role championing the need to build mutual understanding and trust among the many creeds, colors, religions and backgrounds that make up our community and our country. Diversity always has been and always will be our strength as a nation.

Again, welcome to all in attendance tonight, and may 2016 prove to be a wonderful and successful year for CAIR-Chicago and all those it serves.

Very truly yours,

Lisa Madigan  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

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OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER  
MICHAEL W. FRERICHS

Council on American-Islamic Relations  
Chicago Chapter  
17 N. State Street  
Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60602



Dear Friends,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet of the Council on American-Islamic Relations – Chicago.

For more than a decade, CAIR-Chicago has worked diligently to create a more egalitarian society that reflects the true values of our great state and country. CAIR-Chicago vigorously defends civil rights, mobilizes and empowers communities, and seeks to dismantle the walls of ignorance and bigotry that divide us.

The theme of this year's banquet, "Up for the Challenge," dovetails perfectly with this mission. At a time when we confront elements that promote fear and hatred, CAIR-Chicago labors to unite us and to celebrate that which makes us different. We are stronger when we stand as one and protect the principles on which our society is built: respect, inclusion, and justice. Our actions should reflect these ideals.

As we celebrate the successes of the past year, we understand that we must look forward and continue to strive to achieve our common goal of improving the lives of our fellow Illinoisans.

Welcome to this wonderful celebration and thank you for your service to the people of our great state. I wish you many more years of progress.

Sincerely,

Michael Frerichs  
Illinois State Treasurer

State Capital  
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TTY: (666) 877-6013

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF COOK COUNTY

118 NORTH CLARK STREET  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602  
(312) 603-4600  
TDD: (312) 603-5255

TONI PRECKWINKLE  
PRESIDENT



February 20, 2016

GREETINGS

As President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners and on behalf of the residents of Cook County, I offer warm greetings to the members and friends of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), Chicago Chapter, as you gather together to hold your 12th Annual Banquet, themed "Up for the Challenge."

I wish to commend everyone at CAIR, Chicago Chapter, for your deep sense of mission which informs the vital work you continue to do on behalf of the Muslim American community of Cook County. Through your dedicated service in the areas of civil rights defense and advocacy, media outreach, public relations and voter registration, you truly are empowering and transforming Cook County's Muslim American community. Further, I laud CAIR, Chicago Chapter, for fostering awareness, appreciation and understanding of Muslim Americans and Muslim American culture among the residents of Cook County.

May all in attendance enjoy a memorable Banquet, and I wish all continued success.

Sincerely,

Toni Preckwinkle  
President





GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF ILLINOIS

MICHAEL J. MADIGAN  
SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ROOM 300  
STATE HOUSE  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

February 20, 2016



**GREETINGS**

As the Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives, it is my pleasure to welcome those who have gathered for the Chicago chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations' 12th Annual Banquet.

Through the years, CAIR-Chicago has fought for the furtherance of civil rights, embraced community outreach to create greater understanding between Muslims and non-Muslims, and battled intolerance. This is critical in a world that is only becoming smaller, making us one global community.

Over the course of our nation's history, countless Americans and immigrants have faced intolerance because of the color of their skin, where they worship, or the countries they left to find freedom in the United States. With this year's banquet theme, CAIR issues an important call to continue to combat hatred and intolerance wherever it exists.

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

With kindest personal regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

MICHAEL J. MADIGAN  
Speaker of the House



OFFICE OF THE SENATE PRESIDENT  
STATE OF ILLINOIS

JOHN J. CULLERTON  
SENATE PRESIDENT

1726 WEST BELMONT  
CHICAGO, IL 60657  
773/883-0770

To the members & leaders of CAIR-Chicago:

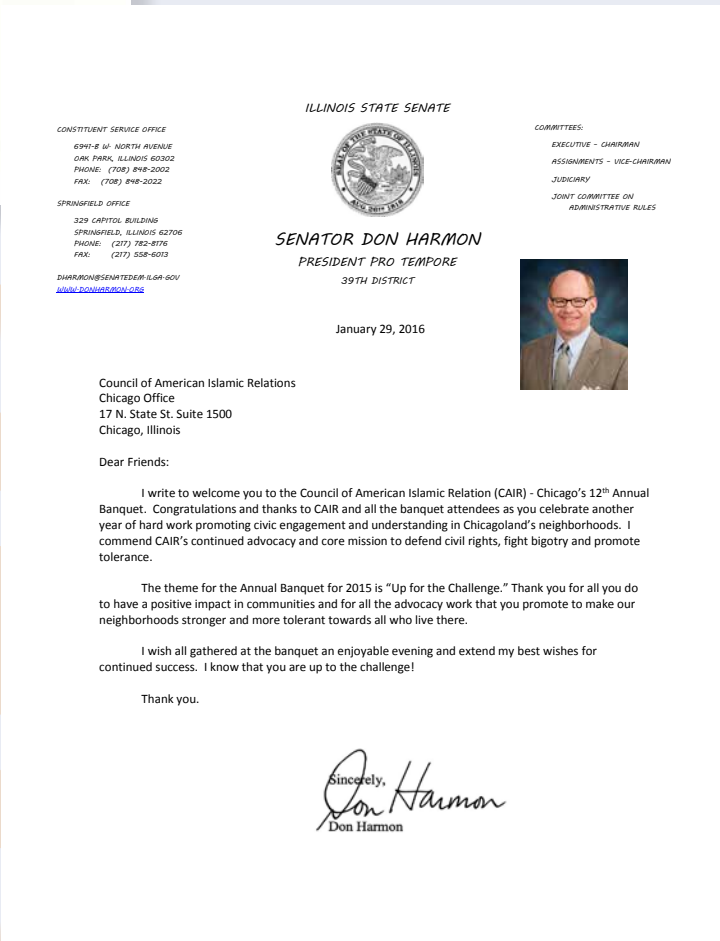
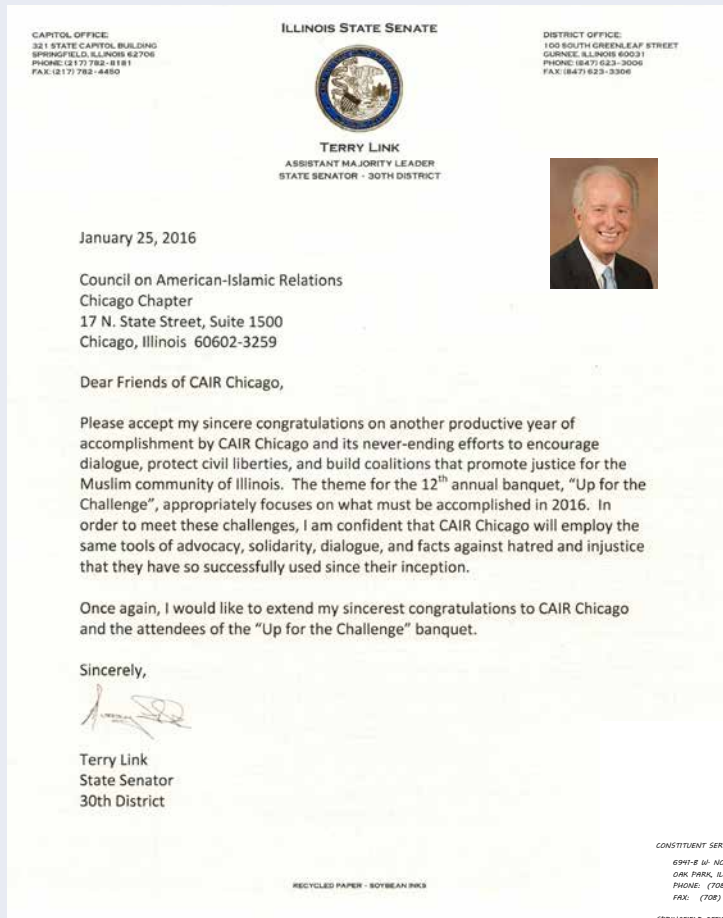
It is my pleasure to welcome all of you to the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet of the Council on American-Islamic Relations' Chicago Chapter. Throughout the years, CAIR-Chicago has played a vital role in defending civil rights, promoting tolerance, and fighting discrimination.

I applaud your dedication to the betterment of Chicago and I wish you a successful & enjoyable dinner as you celebrate your efforts of the past year and continued success in your mission of spreading equality and justice for all in the upcoming year.

Sincerely,

John J. Cullerton  
President of the Illinois State Senate







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STATE OF ILLINOIS



**MATTIE HUNTER**  
MAJORITY CAUCUS WHIP  
STATE SENATOR - 3RD DISTRICT

**COMMITTEES:**  
APPROPRIATIONS |  
EXECUTIVE  
HUMAN SERVICES - CHAIR  
PUBLIC HEALTH - VICE-CHAIR



February 20, 2016

Council on American-Islamic Relations  
17 North State Street, Suite 1500  
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear Members of CAIR-Chicago, friends and supporters:

Congratulations and welcome to the Twelfth Annual Banquet of the Council on American Islamic Relations celebrating your great successes of 2015.

This year's theme "Up for the Challenge" is indicative of your willingness to confront major obstacles in order to ensure justice for the embattled in our communities and to foster understanding throughout greater Chicagoland and Illinois. I commend everyone gathered tonight in celebration of CAIR's commitment to a better tomorrow for everyone.

On behalf of the State of Illinois Third Legislative District, I give my support and my sincere well wishes to CAIR-Chicago as we celebrate your success this evening.

Enjoy!

Sincerely,

Mattie Hunter  
Majority Caucus Whip  
Illinois State Senator  
3rd Legislative District

RECYCLED PAPER • SOYBEAN INKS

**CAPITOL OFFICE:**  
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**IRIS Y. MARTINEZ**  
MAJORITY CAUCUS WHIP  
LATINO CAUCUS CO-CHAIR  
STATE SENATOR • 20<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

**COMMITTEES:**  
CHAIRPERSON  
LICENSED ACTIVITIES AND PENSION  
VICE-CHAIR  
ENERGY AND PUBLIC UTILITIES  
MEMBER  
EDUCATION, LABOR, TRANSPORTATION  
COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Council on American-Islamic Relations  
Chicago Office  
17 N. State St., Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60602

Greetings!

As the Illinois State Senator in the 20<sup>th</sup> District, I am pleased to welcome everyone gathered for CAIR-Chicago's annual banquet.

With a theme of "Up for the Challenge," tonight presents a good opportunity to recognize the efforts of CAIR-Chicago, an extraordinary Muslim civil rights organization. Since its inception, CAIR-Chicago has worked diligently to promote equality and create a more just, tolerant and compassionate society. Your efforts are admirable and have helped Muslims and created a better tomorrow for people of all races and faiths.

In a city as diverse as Chicago, your work is truly needed. You should be immensely proud of the role you have played in fighting discrimination and building bridges of understanding between Muslims and non-Muslim communities.

On behalf of the residents of the 20<sup>th</sup> Senate District, you have my support for many more years of building our community together.

With warm regards,

Iris Y. Martinez  
State Senator, 20<sup>th</sup> Senate District of Illinois  
Majority Caucus Whip  
Latino Caucus Co-Chair

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**BILL BRADY**  
STATE SENATOR  
44TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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February 1, 2016

Council on American-Islamic Relations  
Chicago Office  
17 North State Street  
Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60602

Council Members:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Council on American-Islamic Relations-Chicago chapter's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet. As you convene to celebrate this year's theme "Up for the Challenge," it is my honor to recognize the work that CAIR-Chicago does to defend civil rights, fight bigotry and promote tolerance. Your work is vital to the Muslim communities of the Chicagoland area.

Congratulations on all of your achievements. I wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM E. BRADY  
STATE SENATOR - 44<sup>th</sup> District

WEB:nm

E-MAIL ADDRESS: billbrady@senatorbillbrady.com



**LOUIS I. LANG**  
State Representative  
Deputy Majority Leader  
16th District

Deputy Majority Leader  
Democratic Floor Leader  
Chairman:  
Legislative Ethics  
Commission  
Member:  
Rules  
Insurance  
Joint Committee on  
Administrative Rules



January 28, 2016

Council on American-Islamic Relations  
17 North State St  
Suite 1500  
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear Director Rehab:

As I proudly represent Lincolnwood, Morton Grove, Skokie and the 50<sup>th</sup> Ward in the City of Chicago, I would like to welcome all the attendees to this year's Council on American-Islamic Relations' twelfth Annual Banquet.

Your tireless work on behalf of inclusion and civil rights are invaluable in a world with increasingly less barriers. As Americans, it is essential that we embrace our diversity as a strength that very few countries can match.

Sincerely,

Lou Lang  
Deputy Majority Leader

RECYCLED PAPER • SOYBEAN INK

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE:  
318 STATE HOUSE  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706  
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(217) 782-7012 FAX



**JIM DURKIN**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE - 82ND DISTRICT  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
16W281 83<sup>RD</sup> ST.  
BUFFE C.  
BURNING ROADS, IL 60527  
(630) 329-2028  
(630) 328-2291 FAX



January 26, 2016

Mr. Ahmed M. Rehab  
Executive Director  
Council on American-Islamic Relations  
17 N. State St.  
Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Director Rehab,

I would like to offer my congratulations to the Council on American-Islamic Relations-Chicago Chapter, as you commemorate your 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2016 with your annual banquet.

The Council's theme of "Up for the Challenge" demonstrates CAIR-Chicago's desire to work together in the fight against hatred and injustice towards all citizens of this nation as well as the State of Illinois. CAIR understands the importance of a strong community and how everyone needs to interact with one another in a position and uplifting manner.

Once again, congratulations on celebrating another year in Illinois, as well as another year of fostering understanding in the Chicagoland region.

Sincerely,

Jim Durkin  
House Republican Leader  
State Representative - 82<sup>nd</sup> District

08/2015 003 7425204 • 2/2016 003 21018

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ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



**ED SULLIVAN**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 51<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT  
ASSISTANT REPUBLICAN LEADER

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE:  
314 STATE HOUSE  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706  
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FAX: 217-782-7012



February 20, 2016

Council on American-Islamic Relations  
Chicago Chapter  
17 North State Street, Suite 1500  
Chicago, Illinois 60602-3259

Dear Members and Guests,

I want to sincerely welcome you all to the Council on American-Islamic Relations, Chicago Chapter, 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet.

The Chicago Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations has impacted our area by acting against hatred and injustice, through your advocacy in the communities, schools, government, and other organizations. "Up for the Challenge" is what we all should be and follow through to stop prejudices that affect us all.

Congratulations on a successful event and working to achieve the Chapter's goals in making the most for the next decade of defending civil rights, fighting bigotry, and promoting tolerance.

Sincerely,

Ed Sullivan  
Assistant Republican Leader  
State Representative, 51<sup>st</sup> District

RECYCLED PAPER • SOY INK 04/16




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District Office  
5553 North Broadway  
Chicago, Illinois 60640  
Phone: 773-768-1717

ILLINOIS STATE SENATE



**Heather A. Steans**  
SENATOR • 7<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT



COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:  
Agriculture | Civil  
Environment | Vice Chair  
Economic |  
Education  
Human Services

February, 2016

Dear Friends:

Congratulations to the Council on American Islamic Relations – Chicago on your 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet. This event commemorates another year of CAIR-Chicago advocating for civil rights on behalf of the American Muslim community, with an awareness of the vital importance of these rights for all Americans.

Your mission has confronted many challenges in the past year. Many of America's basic principles and traditions – including religious freedom and tolerance, welcome for immigrants and refugees and religious, racial and ethnic diversity – have come under public attack.

At this time, it is particularly important for entire communities to pull together to protect, partner with and listen to the experiences of our Muslim neighbors. And it is essential that we support organizations like CAIR-Chicago that boldly lend a voice to those afraid to speak out. You remind us that when the rights of any minority are threatened, it is really our core commitment to civil liberties – a commitment that protects us all – that is in danger.

CAIR-Chicago's work has always fostered understanding and tolerance within our communities, and it is now more important than ever. I commend your innovative approach, facilitating peaceful and productive dialogues that serve as a model for others. As an elected official, I am proud to be your ally as you stand against discrimination and for unity in diversity.

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


Best Wishes,




Heather A. Steans  
State Senator – 7<sup>th</sup> District

RECYCLED PAPER • BORN-AGAIN INK

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3706 DEMPSTER STREET  
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STATE OF ILLINOIS  
**DANIEL BISS**  
ILLINOIS STATE SENATE  
9th DISTRICT



CAPITOL OFFICE  
M121 STATE CAPITOL  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706  
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February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016


Dear Friends of CAIR-Chicago,

I am honored to extend my sincere congratulations to CAIR-Chicago on another year of exceptional service to communities across Illinois. The last year has unfortunately featured some prominent voices that exploited fear and ignorance to alienate us from one another; this has only made the work of CAIR-Chicago more important than ever. CAIR-Chicago is a needed bulwark against those who peddle Islamophobia to divide us for their own personal gain. The advocacy, education, and media relations provided by CAIR-Chicago helps protect the civil rights of all people.

There are times when great challenges arise because of the differences between us, whether they are based on race, religion or creed. The theme of this year's event, "Up for the Challenge," illustrates that CAIR understands that enduring strength is achieved when we embrace and strive for diversity instead of sameness. A truly strong and vibrant community doesn't just tolerate diversity, but thrives because of it. CAIR-Chicago has done so much to help communities across Illinois move forward.

Congratulations on all your hard work and a successful celebration.


Sincerely yours,




Daniel Biss  
State Senator, 9<sup>th</sup> District

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123 Capitol Building  
Springfield, Illinois 62706  
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(217) 558-6006 Fax  
kraoul@senatedem.ilga.gov

Illinois State Senate



**Kwame Raoul**  
State Senator • 13<sup>th</sup> District



District Office:  
1509 E. 53rd Street, 2nd Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60615  
(773) 363-1996 Office  
(773) 681-7166 Fax  
senatorraoul@sbcglobal.net

February 3, 2016

Dear Friends,


Greetings and congratulations to the Council on American Islamic Relations – Chicago on your 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet. This event commemorates another year of CAIR-Chicago's essential advocacy of civil rights for Muslims and all residents of Illinois.

This year, quintessential American values, from religious freedom to welcoming refugees, have come under public attack. Hatred motivated by fear has become a regular feature of the political discourse. Understandably, many Muslims in America feel unsafe. This is an unacceptable outcome in a nation whose diversity is its strength, and I applaud CAIR-Chicago for taking the lead in challenging the bigotry and fear-mongering that ultimately threaten us all.

CAIR-Chicago boasts a long and proud history of fostering understanding and tolerance within our communities, and it is now more important than ever to support this work. I commend your innovative approach, facilitating peaceful and productive dialogue. As an elected official, I am proud to stand with you against discrimination and for unity in diversity.

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


Sincerely,




Kwame Raoul  
State Senator, 13<sup>th</sup> District

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217-782-8066  
217-782-2115 (FAX)  
harris@senatorbiss.com  
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Illinois State Senate



**Napoleon B. Harris III**  
Senator  
15th Legislative District



District Office  
169 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Harris, IL 60826  
708-893-6552  
708-566-4108 (FAX)  
senatorbiss@senatorbiss.com  
www.senatorbiss.com

January 20, 2016

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


Dear CAIR-Chicago:

I would like to congratulate the Council on American Islamic Relations on its 12<sup>th</sup> successful year dedicated to protecting the civil rights of Muslims in America. CAIR-Chicago's commitment to continue to educate others regarding the Muslim community needs to be applauded, especially with the strife we are currently experiencing in certain segments of society.

I have committed myself to address hatred and bigotry at the community level by working with all citizens to develop an understanding that it is not our religion, norms, and traditions that separate us. It is the lack of respect and knowledge that plant the seed for hatred, bigotry, and racism to grow.

May this year bring you even closer to your goal of eliminating discrimination against Muslim-Americans.

Sincerely,



Napoleon B. Harris III

RECYCLED PAPER • BORN-AGAIN INK

ILLINOIS STATE SENATE

CAPTOL OFFICE  
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 SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706  
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 FAX: (217) 782-2113

DISTRICT OFFICE  
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 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60620  
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 FAX: (773) 224-2835



**COMMITTEES:**  
 FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS  
 CHAIRPERSON  
 COMMERCE &  
 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
 HIGHER EDUCATION  
 INSURANCE  
 PUBLIC HEALTH  
 TRANSPORTATION



**Jacqueline Y. Collins**  
 STATE SENATOR • 16TH DISTRICT

February 20, 2016

Ahmed M. Rehab  
 Executive Director  
 CAIR- Chicago  
 17 North State Street, Suite 1500  
 Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear Mr. Rehab:

**Congratulations on the Council on American-Islamic Relations' 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet!**

I know I am one among many who appreciates your advocacy in the areas of civil rights, political empowerment, media monitoring and community outreach. Your work is essential to the healthy development of diverse communities.

As diversity nourishes and strengthens us, you preserve an infinite hope that Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. voiced. "I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality... I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word."

Thank you, CAIR-Chicago, for the work you do to shine the light on civil and human rights for all, and thank you for this opportunity to participate in your anniversary celebration!

Congratulations!

Sincerely,



Jacqueline Y. Collins  
 State Senator, 16<sup>th</sup> District

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ILLINOIS STATE SENATE

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**COMMITTEES:**  
 CRIMINAL LAW CHAIR  
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 ENERGY  
 EDUCATION  
 JUDICIARY



**MICHAEL NOLAND**  
 STATE SENATOR • 22ND DISTRICT

January 2016

Council on American-Islamic Relations  
 Chicago Chapter  
 17 North State Street, #1500  
 Chicago, IL 60602-3259


Dear Friends:

I am honored to congratulate CAIR-Chicago and again offer my support to your good work in all of our communities being leading advocates for justice and mutual understanding.

I applaud your theme, "Up for the Challenge" for the Annual Banquet, and wish you a very successful event. I salute you for celebrating CAIR-Chicago's 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

On behalf of my constituents of Illinois State 22<sup>nd</sup> District, please accept my best wishes for much continued success!


Sincerely yours,




Michael Noland  
 State Senator

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ILLINOIS SENATE



**Laura Murphy**  
 STATE SENATOR  
 28th DISTRICT



February 20, 2016

Council of American-Islamic Relations  
 Chicago Chapter  
 17 N. State St., Suite 1500  
 Chicago, IL 60602


Dear Friends,

I would like to extend my warmest welcome to those in attendance at CAIR-Chicago's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet, and congratulate the organization's staff and members on another spectacular year of working to ensure justice and foster understanding of Chicago's Muslim community throughout the state of Illinois.

Since its inception in 2005, CAIR-Chicago has been a strong advocate for diversity, harmony and tolerance, using dialogue and facts as tools to rise above hatred, inequality and injustice. Tonight's theme, "Up for the Challenge", speaks to CAIR-Chicago's commitment to upholding our nation's values and protecting civil and human rights for all. I applaud CAIR-Chicago's outstanding work, and am confident that the organization and its members will continue to make a positive impact on the lives of Illinois residents for years to come.

Best wishes on a memorable evening and for continued success in the future.

Best regards,



Laura M. Murphy  
 State Senator - 28<sup>th</sup> District


350 S. Northwest Highway, Suite 300 ♦ Park Ridge, IL 60068 ♦ 847-656-5414 ♦ 847-656-5201 (fax)  
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ILLINOIS STATE SENATE

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**COMMITTEES:**  
 COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
 EDUCATION  
 ENVIRONMENT & CONSERVATION  
 HUMAN SERVICES  
 TRANSPORTATION



**JULIE A. MORRISON**  
 STATE SENATOR • 29<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT

February 2016

Mr. Ahmed M. Rehab  
 Council on American-Islamic Relations  
 17 North State Street  
 Chicago, IL 60602


Dear Friends,

Congratulations to the Council on American-Islamic Relations as you celebrate your 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet.

The event's theme "Up for the Challenge" speaks to the resilience of those involved with CAIR to help heal the relationships broken by fear and misunderstanding.

Best wishes for continued success as you advocate for human rights and fight injustice along with all who seek peace and understanding.

Sincerely,




Julie A. Morrison  
 State Senator, 29<sup>th</sup> District

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ILLINOIS STATE SENATE

MEMBER  
 • TRANSPORTATION, VICE CHAIR  
 • LABOR AND COMMERCE  
 • JUDICIARY

hutchinson@senatedem.sgs.gov  
 www.senatedem.sgs.gov



**TOI W. HUTCHINSON**  
 STATE SENATOR  
 40<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT



CHAIR  
 • REVENUE

MEMBER  
 • LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION SYSTEMS

January 27, 2016

Hello,

I am deeply honored to congratulate the members of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, Chicago Chapter (CAIR-Chicago) on their 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet. I commend this organization on all of the important work they have accomplished over the past years.

The theme of "Up for the Challenge" is important because we need to change the tone of harshness and violence against Muslim Americans. CAIR-Chicago has been influential in helping the Muslim community here in Illinois and I would like everyone to know that I stand ready to help move this organization forward in any way that I am able.

Sincerely,

*Senator Toi W. Hutchinson*

Toi W. Hutchinson  
 State Senator, 40<sup>th</sup> District

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Illinois State Senate

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**Linda Holmes**  
 State Senator • 42nd District

Committees:  
 Chairperson  
 • Commerce & Economic Development

Member:  
 • Insurance  
 • Labor  
 • Agriculture  
 • Local Government  
 • Environment & Conservation

January 20, 2016

Mr. Ahmed M. Rehab  
 Executive Director  
 17 N. State St.  
 Suite 1500  
 Chicago, IL 60602



Dear Friends,

I want to congratulate the Council on American-Islamic Relations' Chicago chapter on the occasion of its 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet for all the incredible work its members have done and continue to do to ensure a peaceful and prosperous place for the Muslim community in American society.

The Illinois Muslim community's efforts to create a dialogue, defend civil rights and promote understanding are in keeping with the state's proud tradition of this activism for equality, and those efforts are needed now more than ever. I applaud this commitment and offer my support as a lawmaker and a member of the community.


Tonight, I want to welcome you all and to again extend my most sincere regards and congratulations. I wish you much success in the year ahead.

Sincerely,


*Linda Holmes*

RECYCLED PAPER - SOYBEAN INK

2200 WEBER RD.  
 CREST HILL, IL 60403  
 (815) 207-4445  
 (815) 207-4446 (FAX)  
 www.senatorpatmcguire.com



**PAT MCGUIRE**  
 STATE SENATOR • 43RD DISTRICT



COMMITTEES  
 CHAIRPERSON OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
 VICE-CHAIRPERSON OF STATE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS  
 APPROPRIATIONS II  
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3118 STATE CAPITOL  
 SPRINGFIELD, IL 62706  
 (217) 782-8800  
 (217) 782-8287 (FAX)  
 www.senatorpatmcguire.com

February 20, 2016

Dear Friends:

As State Senator of the 43<sup>rd</sup> District, I extend my best wishes to all attending CAIR-Chicago's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet.

The Muslim community is an important part of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Senate District, particularly in Bolingbrook and Romeoville. Through religion, sports, culture, the professions, and business, Muslim Americans add much to the area I am honored to represent.

I congratulate the Council on American-Islamic Relations-Chicago for another successful year. You have my appreciation for your commitment to justice and opportunity for all.


Sincerely,

*Pat McGuire*

Pat McGuire  
 State Senator, District 43

RECYCLED PAPER - SOYBEAN INK

400 NE JEFFERSON  
 SUITE 200  
 PEORIA, IL 61654  
 (309) 677-0120  
 WWW.SENATORDAVEKOEHLER.COM




**DAVID KOEHLER**  
 STATE SENATOR • 46TH DISTRICT

M113 STATE CAPITOL  
 SPRINGFIELD, IL 62706  
 (217) 782-8250  
 (217) 782-2115 FAX  
 WWW.SENATORDAVEKOEHLER.COM

February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016

Mr. Ahmed M. Rehab  
 Executive Director, CAIR-Chicago  
 17 N. State St.  
 Ste. 1500  
 Chicago, IL 60602



Dear Mr. Rehab:

I write this letter today to express my congratulations to CAIR-Chicago for working in the Illinois community to ensure justice and equality and to congratulate you for your 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet honoring that work and success.

When our country was founded, the ideals of religious freedom and tolerance made this land a great beacon of hope and opportunity to all, regardless of their religious affiliation. However, we must continue to work hand-in-hand with all of our neighbors to guarantee that the blessings of liberty and freedom are shared equally by all Americans. The work done by CAIR clearly and fully demonstrates that desire for equality.

I wish to congratulate you on another year of great work, and wish you luck on your work in this upcoming year. I urge you to keep working to uphold the values and ideals that make our nation so great for people of all different cultures and creeds.

Respectfully,

*David Koehler*

David Koehler  
 Illinois State Senator - 46<sup>th</sup> District


RECYCLED PAPER - SOYBEAN INK




ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**CAPITOL OFFICE:**  
278-S Stratten Building  
Springfield, Illinois 62706  
(217) 782-4535 (Office)  
(217) 782-4213 (Fax)

**DISTRICT OFFICE:**  
3059 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60649  
(773) 363-5415 (Office)  
(773) 363-6003 (Fax)  
ken@ken.dunkin.com



**KENNETH "KEN" DUNKIN**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
5<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT



**CHAIRMAN:**

- Appropriations-Higher Education
- Tourism and Conventions

**COMMITTEES:**

- Elementary and Secondary Education
- Financial Institutions
- Insurance
- International Trade and Commerce
- Joint Criminal Justice Reform

January 20, 2016


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

Dear Director Rehab,

As the Illinois State Representative of the 5<sup>th</sup> District, I would like to congratulate you and the Council of American-Islamic Relations on your 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, as well as graciously welcome everyone that has gathered for this impressive event.

As the 2016 theme suggests, "Up For The Challenge", CAIR-Chicago has shown commitment in handling various issues, effectively protecting the civil rights of diverse cultures and religions, while strongly encouraging tolerance, unity, and brotherhood. By fostering teamwork with government, businesses, schools, public offices, and religious organizations, CAIR continues to positively impact the fight for civil and human rights and equality for all.

Again, congratulations on the Chapter's 12<sup>th</sup> year anniversary, and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Signed,  
  
Ken Dunkin  
State Representative  
5<sup>th</sup> District

RECYCLED PAPER • SOYBEAN INK

**CAPITOL OFFICE:**  
253-S STRATTON BUILDING  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706  
217-782-3835  
FAX: 217-782-6470

**DISTRICT OFFICE:**  
1387 W. MONTROSE  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60613  
773-348-3434  
FAX: 773-348-3475  
Email: greg@greg.harris.il.gov



**ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**GREGORY S. HARRIS**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE - 13<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

**COMMITTEES:**

**CHAIR:**

- APPROPRIATIONS
- HUMAN SERVICES

**VICE CHAIR:**

- INSURANCE

**MEMBER:**

- EXECUTIVE
- RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

January 28, 2016

Gerald Hankerson  
Outreach Coordinator  
Council on American-Islamic Relations  
Chicago Office (CAIR-Chicago)  
17 N. State St., Ste. 1500  
Chicago, IL 60602-3259

Dear Mr. Hankerson

I would like to take the time to congratulate CAIR-Chicago on their 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet celebrating "Up for Change" this year. Since CAIR began tracking hate incidents, 2015 was the worst year on record for Muslim Americans since 9/11—especially following the Paris and San Bernardino terror attacks. The drastic rise in Islamophobia sets up this new year to break records again with more reports of intimidation and violence, coupled with growing anti-Muslim rhetoric.


Your advocacy, solidarity, dialogue, and facts against hatred and injustice are essential tools for each person to meet this challenge. This pivotal moment call us to protect our nation's values, to uphold civil and human rights. I am certain that CAIR-Chicago will continue to meet this challenge alongside all who truly seek harmony and justice for years to come.

Very Truly Yours,  
  
Greg Harris  
Representative 13<sup>th</sup> District

RECYCLED PAPER • SOYBEAN INK

**DISTRICT OFFICE:**  
4404 W. LAWRENCE AVENUE  
CHICAGO, IL 60630  
TELEPHONE 773/736-0218  
FAX: 773/736-2333

**CAPITOL OFFICE:**  
279-S STRATTON BUILDING  
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62706  
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**JOHN C. D'AMICO**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
15<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

**COMMITTEES:**

**CHAIRMAN:**

- TRANSPORTATION: VEHICLES & SAFETY
- TRANSPORTATION: LICENSE PLATES

**SUB-COMMITTEE:**

- TRANSPORTATION: SIGNS & SIGNALS

**SUB-COMMITTEE:**

- TRANSPORTATION: REGULATION, ROADS AND BRIDGES

**MEMBER:**

- CONSUMER PROTECTION
- LABOR & COMMERCE
- VETERANS' AFFAIRS


February 2016


Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to offer this letter congratulating the Chicago chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-Chicago) on another successful year of bravely defending civil rights, fighting bigotry, and promoting tolerance.

As the largest organization committed to protecting and promoting the civil rights and liberties of Muslim Americans, CAIR-Chicago has made great strides in engaging all communities to build mutual understanding and trust, and to encourage the creation of a nation that appreciates the ideas, voices, and experiences of all people both here and throughout the world especially after such a tumultuous year. This year's theme of "Up for the Challenge" aims to answer the question of whether or not the future is promised for a chosen few, or at all to fight Islamophobia, hatred, and injustices. I am honored to be able to take part by showing my support to all CAIR-Chicago does to continually meeting the challenges in seeking harmony and justice.

I commend CAIR-Chicago on its ongoing efforts and wish the organization nothing but continued success. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your celebration.

Sincerely,  
  
John C. D'Amico



RECYCLED PAPER • SOYBEAN INK

**DISTRICT OFFICE:**  
302 DAVIS STREET, STE. 303  
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS 60201  
847-424-0888  
847-424-9028 FAX  
rdgabel@robyn.gabel.com



**ROBYN GABEL**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE - 18<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

**SPRINGFIELD OFFICE:**  
286 W STRATTON BUILDING  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706  
217-782-8888  
217-867-7000 FAX  
rdgabel@robyn.gabel.com

**Committee:**

- Appropriations Human Services
- Environment & Energy
- Health & Healthcare Disparities
- Insurance
- Miss Tamm

February 20, 2016

Ahmed M. Rehab  
Executive Director  
CAIR Chicago  
17 N. State St., Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Mr. Rehab,

Congratulations on another successful year at CAIR-Chicago. As the nation's largest Muslim civil rights organization, CAIR has been a leader in issues of social justice, tolerance and anti-discrimination policies.

This year's gala theme, "Up for the Challenge", is of particular importance. This year saw a dramatic rise in anti-Muslim rhetoric and action. As advocates for civil and human rights we must prepare ourselves and our communities to address and rise above these challenges. CAIR plays a key role in ensuring justice and fostering understanding throughout Chicagoland and Illinois.


Again, congratulation on another successful year of promoting and working for social justice and civil rights. I look forward to continuing to work with you, your staff and your organization.

Best regards,  
  
Robyn Gabel  
State Representative 18<sup>th</sup> District

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District Office:  
5940 N. Milwaukee Ave., Suite 101  
Chicago, IL 60646  
(773) 286-1115  
(773) 545-7106 FAX

Springfield Office:  
290-S Straton Building  
Springfield, IL 62706  
(217) 782-8400  
(217) 557-1934 FAX



**Robert Martwick**  
State Representative • 19th District

Vice Chair:  
Elementary & Secondary Education ;  
Charter School Policy  
Committee Member:  
Appropriations - General Services  
Economic Development & Housing  
Financial Institutions  
Insurance  
Judiciary - Civil  
Museums, Arts & Cultural Enhancements  
Renewable Energy & Sustainability  
Veterans' Affairs



Mr. Ahmed M. Rehab  
Executive Director  
CAIR Chicago  
17 N. State Street, Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60602

To the Members & Leaders of CAIR Chicago,

I would like to congratulate you on your 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary of serving the Muslim Community in Chicago. Your work to fight for the equal treatment and protection of all citizens is both admirable and necessary.

I wish you a successful & memorable evening as you celebrate your dedication to CAIR and the City of Chicago.

Sincerely,




Robert Martwick  
State Representative  
19<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

RECYCLED PAPER • SOYBEAN INK

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE:  
280-W STRATON BUILDING  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62760  
817780-0889  
FAX: 817788-0841


DISTRICT OFFICE:  
400 EAST 37<sup>th</sup> STREET  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60618  
773664-1793  
FAX: 773664-1775  
WWW.CHRISTIANMITCHELLS.ORG

ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



**CHRISTIAN L. MITCHELL**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
26<sup>th</sup> HOUSE DISTRICT

COMMITTEES  
ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY  
EDUCATION; SCHOOL  
CURRICULUM & POLICIES  
JUDICIARY; CRIMINAL  
JUVENILE JUSTICE & SYSTEM  
INVOLVED YOUTH  
RENEWABLE ENERGY &  
SUSTAINABILITY  
REVENUE & FINANCE  
STATE GOVERNMENT  
ADMINISTRATION



Council on American-Islamic Relations  
17 N. State St., Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60602

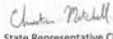
Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure to congratulate you and all that will be celebrating your 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet!

I appreciate and respect the work you do to protect and defend the constitutional rights of American Muslims, thereby supporting the rights of all Americans. Council on American-Islamic Relations – Chicago Chapter continues its commitment to defend civil rights, fight bigotry, and promote tolerance.

I wish you continued success with your efforts in the community for justice and mutual understanding.

Sincerely,




State Representative Christian Mitchell  
II – 26<sup>th</sup> District

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ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES


COMMITTEES  
Insurance - Chairperson  
Appropriations - Higher Education  
Community College Access & Affordability  
Elementary & Secondary Education  
Charter Schools  
Museums, Arts & Cultural Enhancements  
Reproductive Justice



District Office:  
1234 W 95th St.  
Chicago, Illinois 60643  
773345-9700  
Fax: 773345-5755

Capitol Office:  
241-E Straton Building  
Springfield, Illinois 62708  
217782-0010  
Fax: 217782-1795

**MONIQUE D. DAVIS**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
27TH DISTRICT



January 19, 2016

Council on American-Islamic Relations  
Chicago Chapter  
17 N. State Street, Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60602


Dear Friends,

As State Representative of the 27<sup>th</sup> District of Illinois, I am honored to welcome you all to CAIR – Chicago's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet. Congratulations CAIR on another successful year for providing resources, cultural sensitivity training, and embattling discrimination on behalf of the Muslim communities across the nation.

CAIR-Chicago has recorded 2015 as the worst year on record for Muslim Americans since 9/11. This year's theme "Up for the Challenge" is very fitting for the great work you do in the name of advocacy, solidarity, and dialogue which are the very essential tools needed to combat violence and intimidation against all Americans.

We support you CAIR-Chicago as you defend civil rights, fight bigotry while promoting tolerance among Illinois citizens and beyond. Thank you for your activism and fostering the challenge on behalf of the citizens who seek justice.


Sincerely,




Monique D. Davis

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ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



**MICHELLE MUSSMAN**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE - 56<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT



January 21, 2016

Council on American-Islamic Relations  
Chicago Chapter  
17 N. State Street  
Suite 1500  
Chicago, Illinois 60602

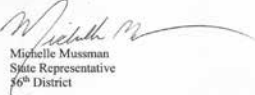
Dear Friends:

As State Representative of the 56<sup>th</sup> District in Illinois, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to CAIR-Chicago's 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

As CAIR's annual celebration enters its twelfth year, CAIR-Chicago continues its commitment to assist Muslim communities around the Chicagoland area. As we have seen in the past year, attacks on Paris and San Bernardino have brought unwarranted scrutiny on Muslim communities throughout the world. I believe this year's theme, "Up for the Challenge," is an appropriate and confident recognition of progress made, as well as, an acknowledgment of the inevitable hurdles ahead for our communities.

Again, I would like to extend my warmest wishes and appreciation to tonight's attendees for your dedication to defending civil rights and building mutual understanding. Congratulations on all your hard work and achievements, and I wish you best of luck in your future endeavors.

Warm Regards,



Michelle Mussman  
State Representative  
56<sup>th</sup> District

DISTRICT OFFICE: 18 W. WEATHERSFIELD WAY, SCHAUMBURG, ILLINOIS 60193 • 847/923-9104 • 847/923-9105 FAX  
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**Margo McDermed**  
State Representative • 37th District



Mr. Ahmed M. Rehab,  
Executive Director  
Council on American-Islamic Relations  
17 N. State St. Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Mr. Rehab,

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to congratulate the Council on American-Islamic Relations for another year of working to foster mutual understanding throughout the Chicagoland community. This year's annual banquet theme of "Up for the Challenge" highlights your commitment to this goal. The United States finds strength in our diversity, while our shared ideals bond us as one nation. Working together is an important aspect of protecting our nation's values, upholding civil and human rights, fostering open dialogue and achieving cooperation among all who desire harmony and justice for all. CAIR-Chicago's pledge to meet these challenges is truly commendable.

Your organization's work on behalf of the Muslim community is most appreciated. Best wishes for another successful year.

Sincerely,

State Representative  
37th Legislative District  
Illinois House of Representatives

District 37 Office: 11032 W. Lincoln Hwy, Frankfort, IL 60423 | 815-277-2079  
Springfield Office: 204-N. Stratton Office Building, Springfield, IL 62706 | 217-782-0424  
Email: MCDermed@imgops.org | Website: www.representmad.com  
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**JAY C. HOFFMAN**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 113TH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:  
LABOR & COMMERCE  
CHAIRMAN  
APPROPRIATIONS - PUBLIC SAFETY  
VICE-CHAIR  
JUDICIARY  
PUBLIC UTILITIES



January 28, 2016

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

Dear Mr. Rehab:

This letter is to convey my continued support for the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) and what they stand for; equality and civil rights for all. Every resident of the community has something to gain from working to prevent future violence through education about diverse cultures and religions. Therefore, I believe this year's theme "Up for the Challenge" is appropriate for the 12th Annual Banquet celebration.

Congratulations on your 12th Anniversary. You should be very proud of your achievement and I commend you for all of your hard work.

Thank you for your generous time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office,

Sincerely,

Jay C. Hoffman  
Illinois State Representative  
113th District

RECYCLED PAPER • SOY-BASED INKS



**OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF REVIEW  
OF COOK COUNTY**  
118 NORTH CLARK STREET  
ROOM 601, COUNTY BUILDING  
CHICAGO, IL 60602  
(312) 603-5560

**MICHAEL M. CABONARGI**  
COMMISSIONER

January 25, 2016

Council on American-Islamic Relations  
Chicago Chapter  
17 North State Street, Suite 1500  
Chicago, Illinois 60602



Dear Friends,

I would like to congratulate the Council on American-Islamic Relations on another successful year dedicated to promoting justice and tolerance for our Muslim community throughout the Cook County region. Over the years, the Council has played an important role in improving the understanding of different cultures and fighting intolerance, bigotry and hatred.

As you celebrate your 12th Annual CAIR-Chicago Banquet, I hope you are proud of your past accomplishments and look forward to the important work ahead.

I am happy to celebrate and support your goal of ensuring justice for your communities and fostering understanding throughout Chicagoland. I wish the Council many more years of success.

Sincerely,

Michael Cabonargi  
Commissioner  
Cook County Board of Review

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**JOHN P. DALEY**  
Chairman  
Committee on Finance

Commissioner - 11th District  
Cook County Board of Commissioners

118 N. Clark Street, Room 567  
Chicago, IL 60602  
312.603.4400 Office  
312.603.6688 Fax  
e-mail: jdaley@cookcountygov.com

January 22, 2015

Mr. Ahmed M. Rehab  
Executive Director  
17 North State Street  
Suite 1500  
Chicago, Illinois 60602



Dear Mr. Rehab,

Congratulations to the Council on American-Islamic Relations-Chicago Chapter on its 12th Anniversary. The Council's hard work in advancing mutual respect for differing ideas, beliefs, and experiences is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do in promoting tolerance and peace. I wish you and all the individuals your organization serves continued success.

Sincerely,

John P. Daley  
Cook County Commissioner

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COUNTY BUILDING  
118 N. Clark Street  
Room 907  
Chicago, IL 60602  
Phone: 312-603-6380  
Fax: 773-423-0392



**JOHN A. FRITCHEY**  
COMMISSIONER, 12<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT  
COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DISTRICT OFFICE  
2539 N. Southport Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60634  
Phone: 773-871-4000  
Fax: 773-423-0392  
office@fritchey.com



January 28, 2016

Council on American-Islamic Relations Chicago Chapter  
17 North State Street, Suite 1500  
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear Friends,

I would like to extend my best wishes to CAIR-Chicago on your 12th Annual Banquet. What a wonderful opportunity to look back and celebrate the positive impact CAIR has had on Chicago for more than a decade, while also looking forward to the important work yet to be done.

With an eye toward the future, CAIR-Chicago has made *Up for the Challenge* the theme of tonight's celebration. Now more than ever, it is imperative that we join together to uphold and protect human rights through open dialogue and respect for the diversity of our ideas and beliefs.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to CAIR for the amazing work they do advocating for justice and mutual understanding between the many different religions and cultures in our city. By defending civil rights, fighting bigotry, promoting tolerance, and providing Islamic perspective on issues of importance, CAIR-Chicago is enhancing understanding of the Islamic religion in one of the most diverse cities in the nation.

I hope you all enjoy tonight's banquet, and I wish CAIR-Chicago much success in the years to come.

Sincerely,

John Fritchey  
Cook County Commissioner, 12<sup>th</sup> District



**COOK COUNTY CLERK DAVID ORR**  
69 W. Washington, Suite 500, Chicago, Illinois 60602



TEL (312) 603-0996 FAX (312) 603-9788 WEB cookcountyclerk.com

February 1, 2016

Dear Friends,

I applaud CAIR-Chicago's dedication to defending Muslim American civil rights, combating intolerance, and promoting mutual understanding. Your work is critically important.

In the past few years, our country has not only seen a rise in inflammatory rhetoric against Muslims, but also an increase in the rate of anti-Muslim hate crimes. While the number of overall hate crimes in America dropped in 2014, anti-Muslim hate crimes went up.

In this climate, it is important to recognize and support the work of CAIR on civil rights, political empowerment, media relations and community outreach.

I wish you an enjoyable evening and continued success in your good work.

Sincerely,

David Orr  
Cook County Clerk



COUNTY OF COOK  
OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY

ANITA ALVAREZ  
STATE'S ATTORNEY

610 WEST WASHINGTON, SUITE 2800  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602  
(312) 463-8600



Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, Chicago Chapter (CAIR-Chicago).

CAIR-Chicago is to be commended for demonstrating a longstanding commitment to preserving and sharing the history and traditions of the Islamic culture. Advocating justice and respect through cultural awareness is important in today's society where many communities, like Cook County, thrive in their cultural diversity.

CAIR-Chicago has my best wishes for another great year of success and progress.

Sincerely,

Anita Alvarez  
Cook County State's Attorney



PHONE (312) 603-8444  
**SHERIFF'S OFFICE OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS**  
RICHARD J. DALEY CENTER  
50 W. WASHINGTON - ROOM 704  
CHICAGO, IL 60602  
**THOMAS J. DART**  
SHERIFF



January 28, 2016

Mr. Ahmed M. Rehab  
Executive Director  
17 N. State St.  
Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL

Dear Director Rehab,

It is with great pleasure that I extend my congratulations to the Council on American-Islamic Relations-Chicago Chapter, as you celebrate your 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet. I applaud your organizations mission of enhancing communication and understanding throughout Chicago.

I find this year's theme, "Up for a Challenge", inspiring and I commend the commitment that CAIR-Chicago has already brought in regards to equality and justice for all.

Again, congratulations on celebrating another year and best of luck in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Dart  
Sheriff of Cook County



**KAREN A. YARBROUGH**  
 RECORDER OF DEEDS/REGISTRAR OF TORRENS TITLES  
 COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

January 21, 2016

Mr. Ahmed M. Rehab  
 Executive Director  
 CAIR-Chicago  
 (Council on American-Islamic Relations)  
 17 North State Street, Suite 1500  
 Chicago, IL 60602



Dear Mr. Rehab:

It is with pleasure that I write this letter of support and congratulate the Council on American-Islamic Relations-Chicago as you celebrate your 12<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary.

Your theme "Up for the Challenge" indeed encapsulates the work that many of us are embattling in our communities and we have taken a stance with you to meet matters head on. The work to ensure civil rights and promote justice and tolerance is not just confined to our communities but it is a national and international matter. We must continue to work and advocate that our diversity is our strength. The principles of tolerance, religious freedom, trust and safety are vital to the sense of community. Thank you for continuing to demonstrate the drive, dedication and passion to promote change and I commend your organization as we fight together.

Congratulations, again, on all of the work you have done and continue to do to ensure justice for all. My best wishes on your continued success!

Sincerely,

Karen A. Yarbrough  
 Cook County Recorder of Deeds

118 NORTH CLARK STREET • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602-1387 • (312) 603-5050 • (312) 603-5063  
[www.cookrecorder.com](http://www.cookrecorder.com)



**DOROTHY BROWN**  
 CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

Richard J. Daley Center  
 Room 1001  
 Chicago, Illinois 60602  
 312-603-5020  
 FAX 312-603-4657  
[www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org](http://www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org)

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

February 20, 2016

Mr. Ahmed M. Rehab  
 Executive Director  
 Council on American-Islamic Relations, Chicago Office  
 17 N. State St., Ste. 1500  
 Chicago, IL 60602



Dear Mr. Rehab:

Greetings to you and everyone attending the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) Chicago Chapter. The event's theme, "Up for the Challenge," is an extremely important message to promote in light of recent events that may be fostering a general atmosphere of discrimination and intolerance across our great nation. I personally support all efforts to provide equal rights for all people, and commend CAIR-Chicago for endeavoring to meet the challenge through advocacy and education.

I applaud CAIR-Chicago for its commitment to ending practices of ethnic 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. It is commendable that 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 and human rights, 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



**BRIAN HOPKINS**  
 Alderman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward  
 1400 N. Ashland Ave.  
 Chicago, Illinois 60602  
 Telephone: 312-643-2299  
 Fax: 773-270-4682

**CITY COUNCIL**  
 CITY OF CHICAGO  
 COUNCIL CHAMBER

CITY HALL - ROOM 200  
 121 NORTH LA SALLE STREET  
 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602  
 TELEPHONE: 312-744-6825  
 FAX: 312-744-6836

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 HUMAN RELATIONS  
 FIREARM AND TRAFFIC SAFETY  
 RULES AND ETHICS  
 SPECIAL EVENTS, CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND RECREATION



February 4, 2015

Dear Friends:

I would like to extend my congratulations to the Chicago Chapter of CAIR on 12 successful years of advocating for the Illinois Muslim community, while advancing justice and mutual understanding between Muslims and all communities.

This year's theme, "Up for the Challenge", is quite fitting given the recent spike in hate incidents and prejudiced rhetoric toward Muslim Americans. Each of us are responsible to do as much as we can to protect our nation's values, but also to uphold civil and human rights. Advocacy, solidarity, dialogue, and facts against hatred and injustice are essential tools for each person to meet this challenge, and CAIR-Chicago continues this important work.

In critical times, our nation and state's great diversity shines strongly to remind us that the future is promising for all people if we come together. I applaud CAIR-Chicago's efforts, and trust they will be one of many that will meet the challenge of defending civil rights, fighting bigotry, and promoting tolerance.

My best wishes for another successful banquet and another successful year.

Sincerely,

Brian Hopkins  
 Alderman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward  
 City of Chicago



**WILLIAM D. BURNS**  
 Alderman, 4<sup>th</sup> Ward  
 435 East 26<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Chicago, Illinois 60616  
 Telephone: 773-556-8103  
 Fax: 773-606-1529

**CITY COUNCIL**  
 CITY OF CHICAGO  
 COUNCIL CHAMBER

CITY HALL, RM. 305  
 121 NORTH LA SALLE STREET  
 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602  
 TELEPHONE: 312-744-6800  
 312-744-7238  
 FAX: 312-744-6840

**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**

EDUCATION AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT  
 GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
 BUDGET AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
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 FINANCE  
 HUMAN AND REAL ESTATE  
 FIREARM AND TRAFFIC SAFETY  
 TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS  
 WORKING AND DEVELOPMENT AND ADULT



January 26, 2016

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


Dear Ahmed:

I am pleased to congratulate and salute the Chicago chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-Chicago) on their 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet being held Saturday, February 20, 2016 at Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace, IL. Unfortunately I am unable to attend, but I wanted to extend best wishes for a successful event. The work your organization does continues to be a platform for change by addressing social issues and working to ensure justice. CAIR-Chicago is a valued resource that educates the masses on Muslim civil rights and experiences.

Again, I congratulate CAIR-Chicago on its growth, success and unwavering stand in the fight for justice, understanding and tolerance for all while celebrating and embracing our cultural differences.

Sincerely,

William D. Burns  
 Alderman, 4<sup>th</sup> Ward




**TONI L. FOULKES**  
 Public Service Office  
 1504 West 82nd Street  
 Chicago, IL 60620  
 Telephone: (773) 863-0260  
 Fax: (773) 863-0260

**TONI L. FOULKES**  
**ALDERMAN-16<sup>TH</sup> WARD**

City Hall - Room 209  
 101 NORTH LA SALLE STREET  
 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602  
 TELEPHONE: (312) 744-6650

**CITY COUNCIL**  
**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**  
 Finance  
 Zoning, Landmarks  
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 Economic, Capital, and Transportation Development  
 Health and Environment  
 Housing, Landmarks and Building Standards



February 1, 2016


Council on American-Islamic Relation  
 Chicago Chapter  
 17 N. State Street Suite 1500  
 Chicago, IL 60602

I, Alderman Toni L. Foulkes of the 16<sup>th</sup> Ward, would like to congratulate the Council on American-Islamic Relation- Chicago Chapter on their 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet.


I want to take a moment to praise you for your dedication and perseverance. Your efficient and quality service has contributed to the satisfaction of the people of the City of Chicago and we want to applaud you. As you celebrate today and throughout the year, I hope this letter reminds you of your importance to the City of Chicago and helps you continue to do outstanding work.

On behalf of the residents of the 16<sup>th</sup> Ward, I thank you for your years of service and your ongoing excellence. Congratulations and best wishes on your 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet.

Sincerely,



Alderman Toni L. Foulkes  
 1/16/16




**DEBORAH L. MELL**  
 Alderman, 33rd Ward  
 3001 W. Irving Park Rd.  
 Chicago, IL 60618  
 Telephone: (773) 478-8040  
 Fax: (773) 478-8006

**CITY COUNCIL**  
**CITY OF CHICAGO**

CITY HALL-ROOM 209  
 121 NORTH LA SALLE STREET  
 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602

**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**  
 COMMITTEES, RULES AND ETHICS  
 BUDGET AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
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 HOUSING AND REAL ESTATE  
 PEDESTRIAN AND TRAFFIC SAFETY (VICE CHAIRMAN)  
 TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WAY  
 ZONING, LANDMARKS AND BUILDING STANDARDS



January 20, 2016


Council on American-Islamic Relations  
 Chicago Chapter  
 17 N. State St.  
 Suite 1500  
 Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Friends,

I am honored to join with my fellow elected officials to welcome you to the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet celebrating the success of CAIR-Chicago. The event's theme of "Up for the Challenge" highlights the important work that the Council on American-Islamic Relations does to protect civil rights and promote diversity, understanding and respect. This challenge is as great now as it has ever been in the history of our country, and we are thankful to have an organization such as CAIR that can meet this challenge.


The 33<sup>rd</sup> Ward is home to one of the most diverse populations in Chicago. Part of celebrating our diversity is to address the unique needs of our residents. It will always be my privilege to join with organizations such as CAIR to continue this work.

Sincerely,



Ald. Deb Mell, 33<sup>rd</sup> Ward


**COUNCIL CHAMBER**  
 CITY HALL - ROOM 209  
 121 NORTH LA SALLE STREET  
 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602  
 TELEPHONE: (312) 744-3100  
 (312) 744-3020  
 FAX: (312) 744-3009



**CITY COUNCIL**  
**CITY OF CHICAGO**

**CARRIE M. AUSTIN**  
 ALDERMAN, 34<sup>TH</sup> WARD

**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**  
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 PUBLIC SAFETY  
 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & ASSIST  
 ZONING, LANDMARKS & BUILDING STANDARDS



February 3, 2016

Ahmed M. Rehab  
 Executive Director  
 CAIR-14 N. State Street, Suite 1500  
 Chicago, Illinois 60602

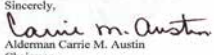
Dear Director Rehab,

As Alderman of the 34<sup>th</sup> Ward and on behalf of Chicago residents, it is with immense pleasure that we congratulate CAIR-Chicago as you celebrate your "12<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet, themed "Up for the Challenge". I applaud the efforts of all who continue to promote peace and justice for the Illinois Muslim community as well as advance a broader cultural awareness and understanding across this great city.

In addition, I commend you for taking on the "challenge" to reduce the significantly high number of hate incidents that has plagued our country this past year. Your hard work and progressive determination to protect our nation's values and to uphold civil and human rights are sure to bring positive outcomes.

Again, congratulations on celebrating another phenomenal year. Best wishes and success for all your future endeavors!

Sincerely,



Alderman Carrie M. Austin  
 Chairman



**EMMA M. MITTS**  
 ALDERMAN, 37<sup>TH</sup> WARD  
 404 West Chicago Avenue  
 Chicago, Illinois 60607  
 Telephone: (773) 379-0900  
 Fax: (773) 379-0900  
[www.emmitt.cityofchicago.org](http://www.emmitt.cityofchicago.org)

**CITY COUNCIL**  
**CITY OF CHICAGO**

COUNCIL CHAMBER  
 City Hall-Room 209, Suite 80  
 121 North LaSalle Street  
 Chicago, Illinois 60602  
 Telephone: (312) 744-3100  
 Fax: (312) 744-3009

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 Rules and Government Operations  
 Committee on Government, Rules and Ethics  
 Economic, Capital, and Transportation Development  
 Finance  
 Health and Environmental Protection  
 Pedestrian and Traffic Safety  
 Public Safety  
 Workforce Development and Assist



February 1, 2016

Council on American-Islamic Relations  
 Chicago Chapter  
 17 N. State St., Suite 1500  
 Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Friends of CAIR-Chicago:

I am pleased to support CAIR-Chicago in its 12<sup>th</sup> year of service to the Muslim community in Illinois. I'm very proud of your accomplishments and commitment to engage all communities in building mutual understanding and trust.

I respect your willingness to work with individuals, organizations and communities of diverse backgrounds. The theme for tonight, "Up for the Challenge", exemplifies where we are as a nation in this current day and time. We're sought to be the examples of achieving greatness through genuine appreciation for one another's existence, voices, ideas, experiences, and potential. If we come together to take up this challenge, we will achieve excellence and go far in life.

CAIR-Chicago has benefited many community members, leaders and elected officials through dialogue, facts, and empowerment. Working together in solidarity for everyone's civil rights ensures we can guarantee equality and respect for all.

Therefore, with full confidence, I support CAIR-Chicago and give my favorable consideration on behalf of the residents of this city's 37<sup>th</sup> Ward.

Sincerely,



Emma M. Mitts  
 Alderman, 37<sup>th</sup> Ward



  
**CITY OF CHICAGO**  
 BRENDAN REILLY  
 VICE MAYOR OF CHICAGO  
 ALDERMAN, 42ND WARD

February 4, 2016

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



Dear Ahmed:

I am pleased to offer my sincerest congratulations to the Chicago chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-Chicago) on the occasion of your 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala on February 20th, 2016.

Your organization's dedication to protecting the civil liberties of Muslim-Americans in Chicago is an extraordinary example of what can be accomplished when we work together. I am so proud to have the headquarters of CAIR-Chicago located in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Ward.

On behalf of the people of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Ward, please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable celebration, and continued success in years to come.

Sincerely,

  
 Brendan Reilly  
 Alderman, 42nd Ward



**JAMES CAPPLEMAN**  
 ALDERMAN, 46TH WARD

**CUMMILLI MEMBERSHIPS**  
 Budget and Government Operations  
 Commerce, Parks and Ethics  
 Health and Environmental Protection  
 Housing and Public Works  
 License and Consumer Protection  
 Pedestrian and Traffic Safety  
 Zoning, Licensing and Business Standards

January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Council on American-Islamic Relations  
 Chicago Chapter  
 Suite 1500  
 Chicago, Illinois 60602



Dear Friends,

As Alderman of the 46<sup>th</sup> Ward, I am honored to welcome you to the Council on American-Islamic Relation Chicago's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet. I want to congratulate the Council for its prosperous work on continuing to uphold civil rights and equality in our community.

"Up to the Challenge", the theme of this year's banquet is very appropriate in light of the drastic rise in islamophobia in not only political rhetoric but everyday instances. We must be proactive in fighting against this rise and striving for a more accepting and equal society. And I want to urge all of those in attendance tonight to proclaim their readiness for accepting the challenge of protecting our nation's core values of human and civil liberty.

Again, welcome to all in attendance tonight, congratulations to the Council on decades of important work and may 2016 prove to be successful and harmonious year for us all.

Sincerely,



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



**Office of the Mayor**

David J. Kaptain  
 Mayor

150 DEKTER COURT  
 ELGIN, ILLINOIS 60120

847.881.5685  
 mayor@cityofelgin.org

January 20, 2016

Council on American-Islamic Relations  
 Chicago Office  
 17 North State Street, Suite 1500  
 Chicago, Illinois 60602-3259



Dear Friends:

Please accept my best wishes for another successful banquet capping yet another successful year fulfilling your mission to defend civil rights, fight bigotry and promote tolerance.

The event them this year, "Up for the Challenge", reminds us that the work you are doing to foster understanding throughout the greater Chicagoland area and Illinois is no easy task. Your commitment to your mission is to be commended. The best weapons against hate and bigotry are communication and education.

I wish you continued success in your mission and offer my assistance in welcoming your members to the Elgin community.

Sincerely,

  
 David J. Kaptain  
 Mayor, City of Elgin



**City of Evanston**

Elizabeth B. Tisdahl  
 Mayor

Office of the Mayor  
 2100 Ridge Avenue  
 Evanston, Illinois 60201  
 T 847.855.2979  
 F 847.855.7814  
 etisdah@cityofevanston.org  
 www.cityofevanston.org

January 25, 2016

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



Dear Director Rahab:

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. You are helping the entire Chicagoland area with what I am sure will be a successful event and another memorable year.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Tisdahl  
 Mayor



City of Harvey  
15320 Broadway Avenue  
Harvey, IL 60426

Eric J. Kellogg  
Mayor



February 4, 2016

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

Dear Director Rehab:

As Mayor of the great City of Harvey, I would like to welcome everyone that gathered for the 12<sup>th</sup> 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 "Up for the Challenge" 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

City of Hickory Hills  
8852 WEST 95<sup>th</sup> STREET  
HICKORY HILLS, ILLINOIS 60457  
PHONE 708 598 4800 • FAX (708) 420-6245

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
MIKE HOWLEY

CITY HALL  
708 450 4211



January 19, 2016

Ahmed M. Rehab, Executive Director  
Council on American-Islamic Relations  
17 N. State Street, Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to commend the vital work of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) as you celebrate the organization's 12th Annual Banquet on February 20, 2016. I am certain that CAIR will be "Up for the Challenge" of defending the vital American principles of religious and ethnic tolerance. In the face of the alarming rise of anti-Muslim rhetoric and incidents, I applaud CAIR's unwavering advocacy against bigotry and in support of tolerance and human rights.

As Mayor of the City of Hickory Hills, I wish you and all of your members a healthy and successful 2016.

Sincerely,

Mike Howley  
Mayor, City of Hickory Hills  
MH:ed



HOFFMAN ESTATES

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

William D. McLeod  
MAYOR



January 2016

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 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet celebrating your success in promoting solidarity and open dialogue about key issues in our communities.

The theme of your banquet, "Up For the Challenge" exemplifies the ideals we strive for here in the Village of Hoffman Estates. CAIR-Chicago community activists deserve to be recognized for their continued outstanding work in promoting dignity and respect for all peoples.

Mother Theresa said it well, "If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other." Through cultivating an open dialogue and cooperation among all people, CAIR-Chicago has made it a responsibility to truly understand one another's unique ideas, voices and experiences.

Thank you again for your exemplary efforts to make a difference in all of our communities and best wishes for many more years of successful service!

Sincerely,

William D. McLeod  
Mayor

1900 Havelle Road, Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60149 • Phone: 847-882-9100 • Fax: 847-781-2623  
Web: www.hoffmanestates.org • E-Mail: bill.mcleod@hoffmanestates.org



Village of Morton Grove

Office of the Mayor  
and Board of Trustees

January 18, 2016

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



Dear Mr. Rehab:

The Village of Morton Grove would like to congratulate the Council on American Islamic Relations, on their upcoming annual banquet and anniversary.

I understand the event's theme this year is "Up for the Challenge". It is an appropriate theme considering the rise in violence, intimidation, bullying, and injustice in our country and throughout the world.

Morton Grove is a diverse community which continues to grow in its understanding of the varied cultures and religious groups that reside within its corporate limits. With American values of justice and equality for all as a foundation we will continue to build on our forefather's vision of a future filled with peace and prosperity.

May this year's event bring about renewed respect and an appreciation for the visions for a prosperous future as we all move forward to a brighter tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Daniel P. DiMaria  
Village President

Richard T. Flickinger Municipal Center  
6101 Capulina Avenue • Morton Grove, Illinois 60053-2985  
Tel: (847) 965-4100 Fax: (847) 965-4162





# Village of Northbrook

1125 Cedar Lane Northbrook, Illinois 60062 847.272.5050 Fax 847.272.9760 www.northbrook.il.us



Friday, February 05, 2016

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

Dear Mr. Rehab:

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 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet.

The annual banquet provides an excellent opportunity to recognize the important role that the Illinois Muslim community plays in our communities and society. This year's banquet theme - "Up for the Challenge" - speaks to the chapter and national organization's efforts to combat hatred and injustice as well as promote peace and understanding. Our futures all look brighter and more promising when communities can come together with respect and appreciate one another's ideas, voices and experiences.

Again, congratulations to CAIR-Chicago and best wishes on the continued advanced of your mission to ensure justice for all members of the Muslim community as well as to further nurture and promote understanding.

Sincerely,

Sandra E. Frum  
President, Village of Northbrook

PREMINT  
Sandra E. Frum

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## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

VILLAGE OF OAK BROOK

GOPAL G. LALMALANI M.D., MBA  
PRESIDENT

January 21, 2016

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 a hearty welcome to the members of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), Chicago Chapter on to the Oak Brook area!

The fitting theme for this year's event, "Up for the Challenge" begs the attention of everyone to protect our nation's values by advocating, communicating, coming together to build mutual understanding, respect and trust throughout our communities.

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

Sincerely,

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

MAYOR  
Daniel J. McLaughlin  
VILLAGE CLERK  
John C. Mehalek  
14700 S. Ravinia Ave.  
Orland Park, IL 60462  
(708) 403-8700  
www.orlandpark.org



VILLAGE HALL

TRUSTEES  
Kathleen M. Fenton  
James V. Dodge  
Patricia A. Gira  
Carole Griffin Ruzich  
Daniel T. Calandriello  
Michael F. Carroll

January 25, 2016

Council on American-Islamic Relations  
Chicago Chapter  
17 North State Street, Suite 1500  
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear Members and Guests:

As Mayor of the Village of Orland Park, I am pleased to extend my best wishes for a successful 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet. I commend CAIR-Chicago for fostering improved respect and understanding of the diversity of our communities and our region.

On behalf of the village board and the residents of Orland Park, my sincere best wishes for a meaningful event.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. McLaughlin  
Mayor



## CITY OF SOUTH BEND

PETE BUTTIGIEG, MAYOR  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

February 5, 2016

Mr. Ahmed M. Rehab  
17 N. State St.  
Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL, 60602



Dear Director Rehab,

Congratulations to the Chicago Chapter of the Council on American Islamic Relations for your 12<sup>th</sup> annual banquet and to the national organization for another year of honorable and important work.

Thank you for your efforts to promote justice, dialogue, and respect. In light of recent events, your work is all the more necessary to dispel the climate of fear and hatred that has become altogether too prevalent.

Your leadership and continued success in promoting cultural understanding and respect is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Pete Buttigieg  
Mayor





## 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.

### SUPPORT US

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

- Sign up for CAIR-Chicago's Dollar-A-Day program at [cairchicago.org/dollar-a-day](http://cairchicago.org/dollar-a-day)
- Make a general donation at [cairchicago.org/donate](http://cairchicago.org/donate)
- Check to see if your employer has a **gift matching program**
- Designate CAIR-Chicago as a **beneficiary in your will** (planned giving)
- Donate **stocks, bonds or financial instruments** to CAIR-Chicago
- Donate vehicles via **Cars 4 Causes** by going to [cars4causes.net/charity-car-donation/cair-chicago](http://cars4causes.net/charity-car-donation/cair-chicago)
- Participate in our Amazon Smile program. Go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)

### JOIN US

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

# STAFF & BOARD



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of the Council on  
American-Islamic  
Relations

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17 N. State Street  
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Chicago IL, 60602

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[cairchicago.org](http://cairchicago.org)  
17 N. State St. Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60602  
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