



CAIR
CHICAGO



2011 ANNUAL REPORT

www.cairchicago.org

CAIR-Chicago

CAIR-Chicago is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit Muslim civil rights organization registered independently in Illinois. CAIR-Chicago raises its own funds from its local constituency and sets its own operational and strategic agenda. Our office, located in the heart of Chicago's downtown business district, is currently in its seventh year of operation.

Our Vision

To attain equal opportunity for - and normalize the image of - Muslims in America.



Students participate in CAIR-Chicago's annual Muslim Youth Leadership Symposium (MYLS) held in September 2011.

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

TESTIMONIALS

"I want to commend the CAIR-Chicago for its ongoing commitment to serving the needs of Chicago's Muslim population and for working toward ensuring justice and civil rights for all the communities it serves."

-Pat Quinn, Governor of Illinois

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

-Rahm Emanuel, Mayor of Chicago

"Your commitment to education, justice, outreach, and empowerment not only serves to better the Islamic community but the community as a whole. Through your work and organizations like yours, I am confident that some day there will be "A Future Without Bigotry" not only in the Midwest but in the U.S."

-Jesse Jackson Jr., U.S. Congressman

"The work that CAIR-Chicago does for our city and across the nation not only enriches the Muslim community but also expands productive dialogue between cultures. I thank them for their efforts."

-Mike Quigley, U.S. Congressman

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

-Danny K. Davis, U.S. Congressman

"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 against intolerance. These positive actions are critical in a world that is only becoming smaller, making us a global community."

-Michael Madigan, IL Speaker of the House

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CAIR-Chicago’s Core Values

CAIR-Chicago is a Muslim organization that employs a trademark “professional activism” model in pursuit of its simple but important mission “to defend civil rights, fight bigotry, and promote tolerance.” For seven years, CAIR-Chicago has been committed to the following ideals established on our first day of operation:

Credibility: Gain the trust and respect of all involved.

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

Professionalism: Level-headed, objective, and presentable.

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

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

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

Transparency: What you see is what you get.

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

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

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

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



CAIR-Chicago’s office is located downtown, in the heart of the city.

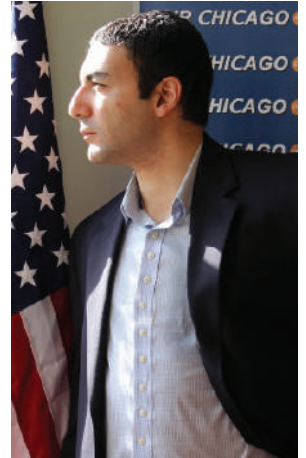
Executive Summary

In its seven years of service, CAIR-Chicago has handled over 2,200 cases of anti-Muslim discrimination, conducted nearly a thousand mainstream media interviews, and graduated 350 interns.

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

CAIR-Chicago is an autonomous, grassroots, community-based organization. We have grown from a two-person volunteer staff into an institution served by 11 staff members and dozens of interns, and fueled exclusively by local community donations.

2011 saw continued success for CAIR-Chicago. Our influence has expanded from the local scene into the national and international scene in terms of alliances, speaking engagements, and media access. Our Civil Rights Department has developed further as a legal clinic with in-staff attorneys able to fully litigate cases in court without external assistance or third-party costs. Our online presence has expanded with cutting-edge



*Ahmed Rehab,
Executive Director, co-founded
the new CAIR-Chicago in 2004
with Safaa Zarzour and
Yaser Tabbara.*

“Hate is a self-addressed envelope.”

-CAIR-Chicago Executive Director, Ahmed Rehab



*Left: Ahmed Rehab speaks
at ICIRR'S "One Nation,
One Dream" Immigration
Integration Summit. On stage:
IL Governor Pat Quinn,
Speaker of the IL House,
Michael Madigan, and U.S.
Representatives Luis Gutierrez
and Jan Schakowsky.*

Executive Summary



Sufyan Sobel, Deputy Director and attorney, formerly served as a law clerk before joining CAIR-Chicago's staff.



Operations Coordinator Mohamed Abdelati joined CAIR-Chicago's staff in 2011 having formerly served as a communications intern.

websites, blogs, and social media. The diversity of our interns is a testament to the popularity of CAIR-Chicago as a destination for young activists eager to cut their teeth in serious civil rights work.

During this historic time in which Islam and Muslims often headline primetime news - whether in the context of Islamophobia, terrorism, political participation, or pro-democracy revolution in the Middle East - CAIR-Chicago's activists have been omnipresent presenting a courageous and clear voice that speaks faithfully to the ideas and emotions expressed in the American-Muslim community.

In 2011, our representatives have been hosted dozens of times on networks such as CNN, FOX, MSNBC, Al Jazeera, NBC, ABC, CBS, WGN, NPR and others. Our Op-Eds have been published in the Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun-Times, the Daily Herald, and the Huffington Post, among other newspapers and websites. Our staff members have spoken on the pressing issues facing the American-Muslim community at universities and colleges in the Chicagoland area and beyond. Members of our staff and board have been leading voices in the push for democracy in the Middle East through direct participation on the ground and subsequent media activism.

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

Please continue to read through this annual report for a detailed review of our work in the year 2011 and remember to visit: www.cairchicago.org. We hope that you will continue to support our services.

- Ahmed Rehab, Executive Director



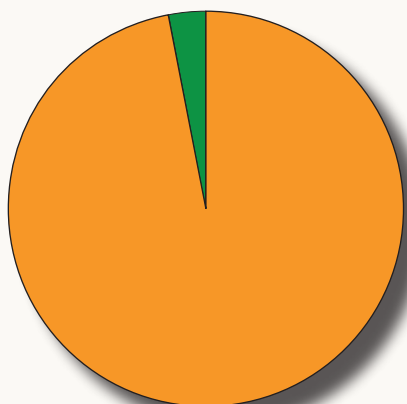
Right: Executive Director Ahmed Rehab speaks at an Arab Spring panel held in November, 2011 in CAIR-Chicago's gallery, with DePaul University Lecturer Laith Saud and the Honorable Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, William J. Haddad.



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

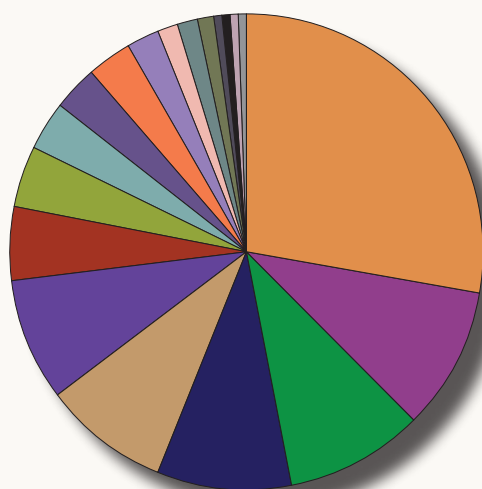
*Communications
Coordinator Amina
Sharif, Research Fellow
Muhammad Akbar, and
Law Clerk Tamer Mansour
attend a rally in downtown
Chicago in November 2011,
condemning attacks on an
Assyrian church in Iraq.*

2011 Financial Summary: **Income**



Public Support	\$630,117.01
Legal Proceeds	\$19,484.03
Total	\$649,601.04

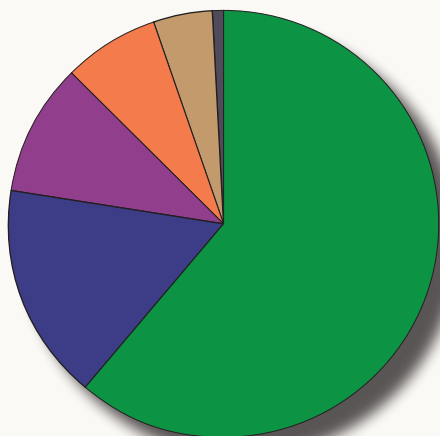
2011 Financial Summary: **Expenses** by Category



Civil Rights Expenses	\$179,027.32
Events & Fundraising	\$63,721.54
Research	\$59,270.00
Benefits and Insurance	\$59,143.14
Communications & Media	\$55,743.72
Administrative	\$53,745.88
Office Lease & Utilities	\$31,428.64
Outreach Development	\$27,229.26
Office Supplies & Expenses	\$21,900.05
Facilities & Equipment	\$20,322.57

Contract Services	\$18,377.84
Marketing & Advertisement	\$15,454.68
Accounting Fees	\$8,733.00
Repair & Maintenance	\$8,634.00
Bank Charges	\$6,192.27
Travel & Meetings	\$4,867.06
Organizational Support	\$3,500.00
Meals & Entertainment	\$3,100.17
Postage	\$2,718.81
Total	\$643,109.95

2011 Financial Summary: **Expenses** by Program



Salaries/Benefits/Payroll Taxes	\$394,736.82
Business/Operational Expenses	\$104,617.20
Events & Fundraising	\$63,721.54
Contract Services	\$46,264.84
Litigation Expenses	\$28,902.49
Travel & Meeting Expenses	\$4,867.06
Total	\$643,109.95



PROMOTING TOLERANCE.

DEFENDING



CIVIL RIGHTS.



FIGHTING BIGOTRY.

Civil Rights



Kevin Vodak, CAIR-Chicago's Litigation Director, joined the organization in 2008 bringing with him seven years of litigation experience.

Throughout 2011, CAIR-Chicago's Civil Rights Department continued its critical work of both advocating and litigating -whence necessary- against the discrimination of Muslims in America. CAIR-Chicago single-handedly ensured that the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission recognizes "Arab" as a category for race classification, easing the burden on Arab-Muslim employees to prove their discrimination claims against racist employers. The department has begun extensive litigation on behalf of dozens of Somali-Muslim former meat factory workers in the lawsuit EEOC, et al. v. JBS USA, LLC. CAIR-Chicago is also litigating DuPage County's discriminatory denial of a special use permit for the Irshad Learning Center. Additionally, CAIR-Chicago is pleased to announce that it has helped 17 individuals become American citizens through the work in its Citizenship Delay Project in 2011. The department was successful in reversing the denial of naturalization of Masoud Massumy Nejad, an Iranian who has been in the U.S. for more than 30 years.

Currently, over 200 civil rights cases are open and being actively worked on by the department.

"We will not relent in upholding the constitutionally guaranteed rights of all Americans, including Muslims."

-CAIR-Chicago Civil Rights Director, Christina Abraham

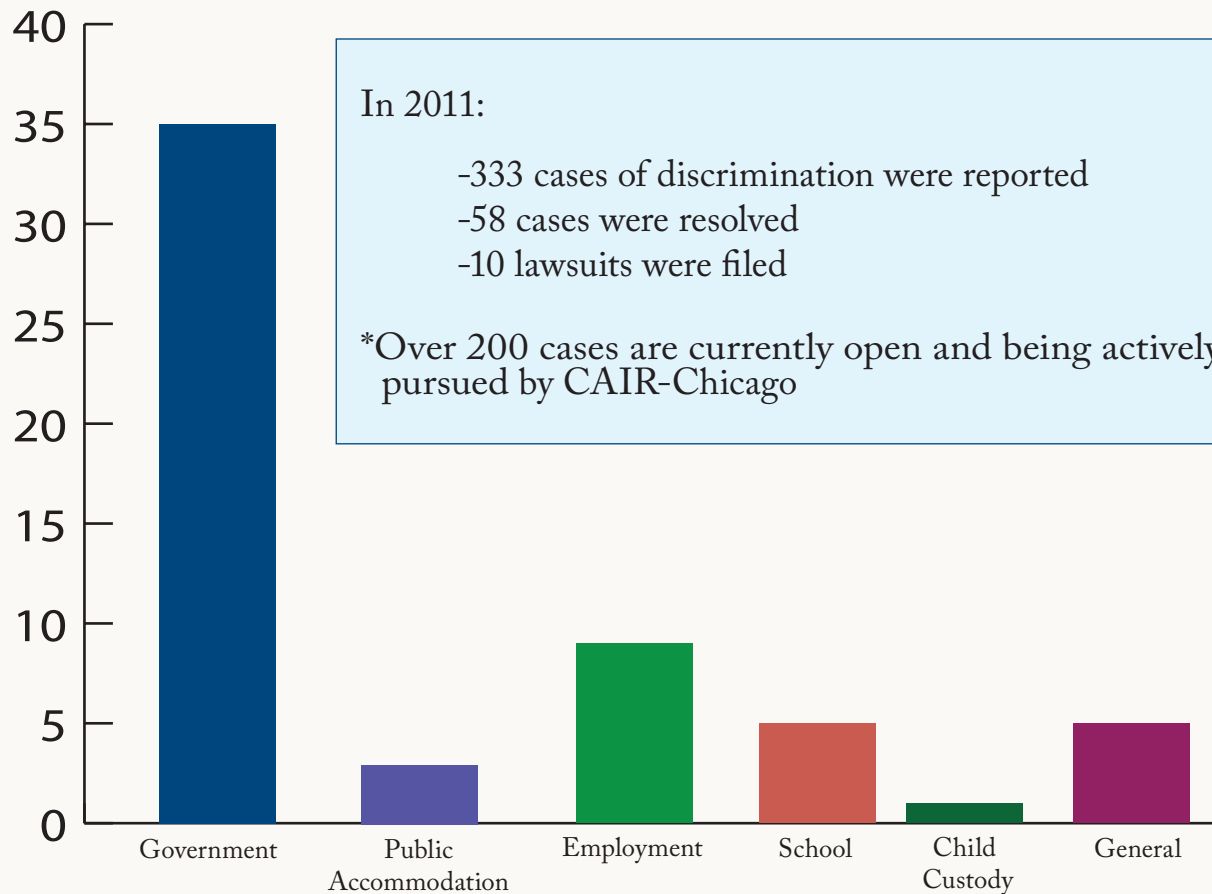


Christina Abraham, Civil Rights Director, helped found the Civil Rights Department in 2005.

Employment discrimination, which represents a substantial amount of the cases reported to the department, typically requires victims to file claims with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) or a local agency. The department has continually faced opposition from the EEOC's Chicago District Office when filing claims on behalf of Arab employees alleging race discrimination, as EEOC representatives elected not to recognize "Arab" as a race category. Such a decision created hardship for Arab employees, who were forced to prove that their national origin was the root of the employer's prejudice, even if the employer never learned of the victim's specific country of origin. Litigation Director Kevin Vodak repeatedly addressed this issue with the EEOC's National Office. In October 2011, the EEOC confirmed that all intake offices nationwide will accept claims of discrimination against the Arab race.

The department continued its litigation in EEOC, et al. v. JBS USA, LLC in 2011. In 2010, the EEOC found that JBS USA discriminated against its Somali-Muslim factory workers at their plant in Grand Island, Nebraska when it refused to accommodate a prayer break for the employees during the month of Ramadan. Management of the company even went so far as to terminate employees that rallied for their rights and used their personal break time to pray, forcing employees to sign written promises

2011 Civil Rights Department Cases Resolved



not to pray during work hours. The department commenced the discovery process in the case in 2011, and Staff Attorney Rabya Khan has been working diligently with the EEOC and a Nebraska law firm to prove the claims of the Somali-Muslim employees represented by CAIR-Chicago. Khan participated in a site visit of the Grand Island plant, reviewed voluminous records, and deposed nine witnesses in Nebraska. She also represented seven of CAIR-Chicago's clients during depositions in both Nebraska and Minnesota. This litigation will continue throughout 2012.

CAIR-Chicago also remained committed to challenging discrimination against religious institutions in DuPage County in 2011. After filing suit on behalf of the Irshad Learning Center (ILC) against DuPage County for its denial of a special use permit for the learning center in 2010, the department succeeded in withstanding the County's attempt to dismiss the case. Judge Pallmeyer's March 2011 ruling provided ILC the right to proceed against the County, and the department has been working to prove the claims through the discovery process. Litigation Director Kevin Vodak has conducted seven depositions of County officials, with more to be done in 2012. CAIR-Chicago also publicly supported the Muslim Educational and Cultural Center of America (MECCA), which succeeded in securing permits from the DuPage County Board in 2011 after its attorney, Mark Daniel, presented overwhelming evidence that MECCA met all of the County's requirements.



Civil Rights Department interns, Zeena Barazanji and Nichole Xiong conduct client intakes.

Civil Rights

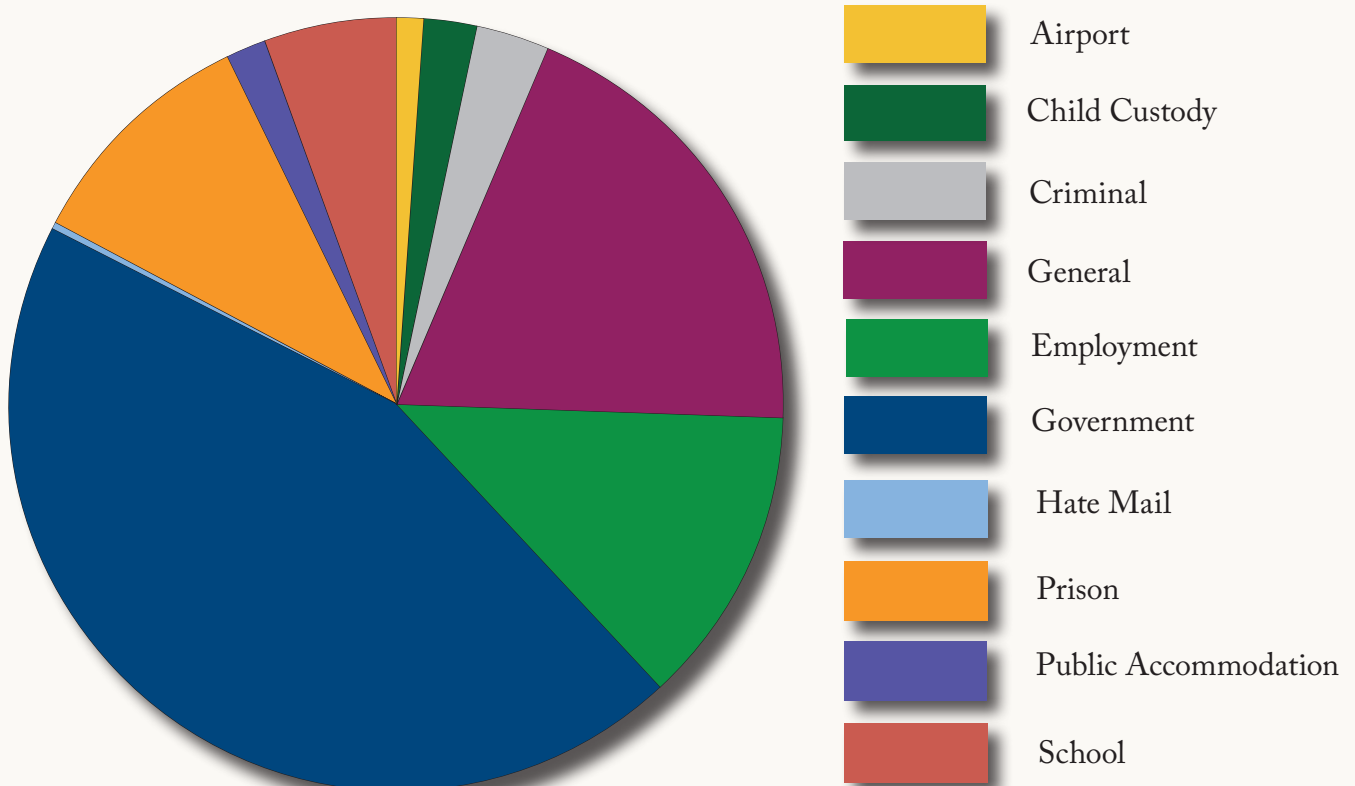


*Rabya Khan,
Staff Attorney, joined
CAIR-Chicago's staff in
2011 having formerly served
as a volunteer attorney.*

The number of lawsuits filed by the department in 2011 decreased, due to the large amount of resources committed to previously filed claims, as well as reinforcing our strategy of selecting only the strongest cases or critical issues for litigation. This year saw a continued increase in the number of cases reported involving the FBI, whose agents now focus on the Arab revolutionary movements abroad as a basis to interrogate American Muslims. CAIR-Chicago's FBI project ensures that individuals receive pro bono representation when facing questioning by FBI agents.

The Civil Rights Department at CAIR-Chicago has seen a number of successes throughout the year in its various other casework. The department resolved Greyhound's refusal to allow Jacqueline Pasha to travel by bus when wearing a niqab. Our Civil Rights Director, Litigation Director, and Staff Attorney have worked tirelessly to resolve these and a number of other cases ranging from employment discrimination to immigration and public accommodation. The Civil Rights Department's goals for 2012 are built on past successes and focus on greater development of equal opportunity for American-Muslims. We hope to continue in the fight to protect the civil liberties guaranteed by our nation's Constitution and look forward to your continued support.

Breakdown of Cases Reported in 2011





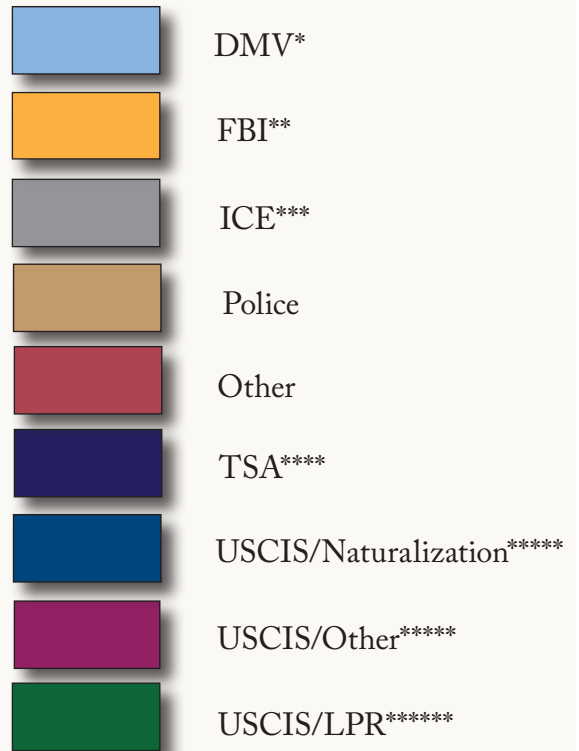
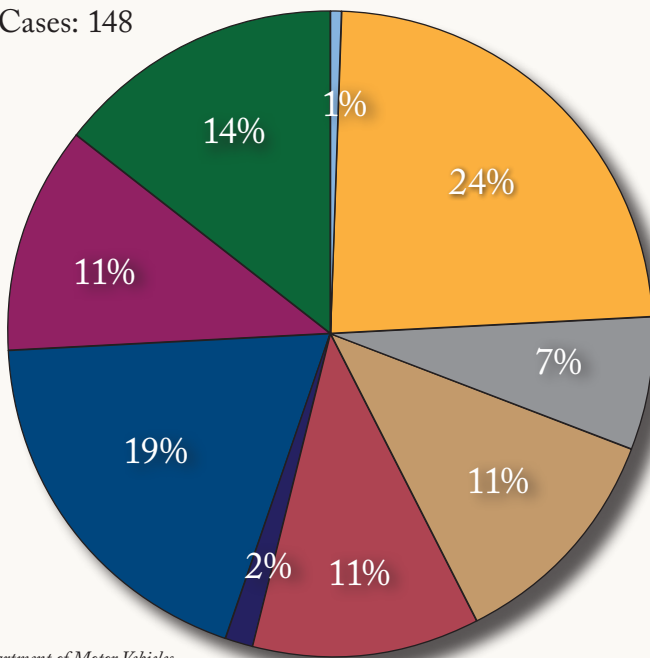
Bill Yoshino, Midwest Regional Director of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) speaks at CAIR-Chicago's press conference condemning the National Defense Authorization Act of 2011 and is joined by Imam Misbahuddin Rufai, Urban Development Director at the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago (CIOGC); Jane Ramsey, Executive Director of the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs (JCUA); CAIR-Chicago Communications Coordinator Amina Sharif; James Fennerty, President Emeritus of the National Lawyers Guild (NLG); and CAIR-Chicago Executive Director Ahmed Rehab.

Representing YOU and the Community

- Civil Rights Director Christina Abraham presented to the American Association of University Women (AAUW) to discuss women in Islam.
- Civil Rights Director Christina Abraham appeared on Fox News to argue in support of a Muslim schoolteacher who was denied unpaid leave to take a hajj pilgrimage.
- Civil Rights Director Christina Abraham spoke on the There Is No Spoon podcast as a panel member discussing the Patriot Act.
- Litigation Director Kevin Vodak presented at a panel following the screening of *Welcome to Shelbyville*, a film portraying the integration of Somali-Muslim refugees into the Shelbyville, Tennessee community.
- The Civil Rights Dept. produced a series of video blogs where Civil Rights Director Christina Abraham discussed the significance of renewed Patriot Act provisions, Litigation Director Kevin Vodak discussed new FBI guidelines, Civil Rights Law Clerk Tarek Khalil critiqued Herman Cain's "Muslim loyalty oath," and Communications Intern Dima Ansari discussed Islamophobic materials used by the FBI to train their agents.
- Staff Attorney Rabya Khan attended a public hearing held by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to discuss the Secure Communities program. The event ended in civil disobedience led by local youth and the arrest of six attendees.
- Litigation Director Kevin Vodak presented at the Hate Crime and Bias Awareness Conference, which trained law enforcement officers on issues regarding hate crimes.
- Litigation Director Kevin Vodak spoke at a press conference opposing the National Defense Authorization Act of 2011, which authorizes the U.S. military to arrest American citizens suspected of terrorism without charge or trial and detain them for an indefinite length of time.

Government Cases Reported

^Total Cases: 148

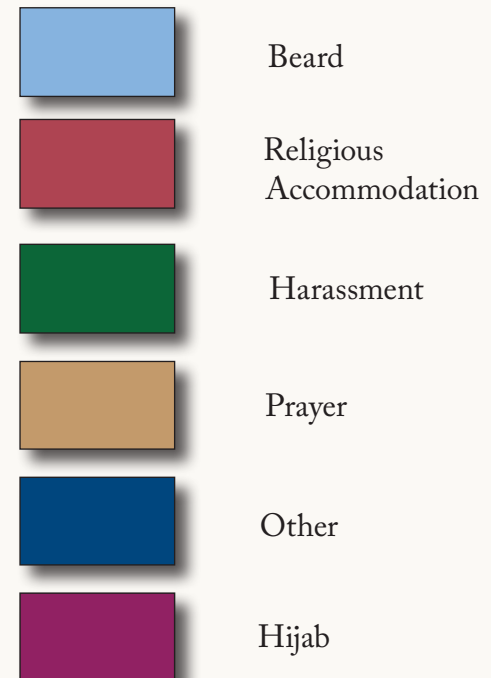
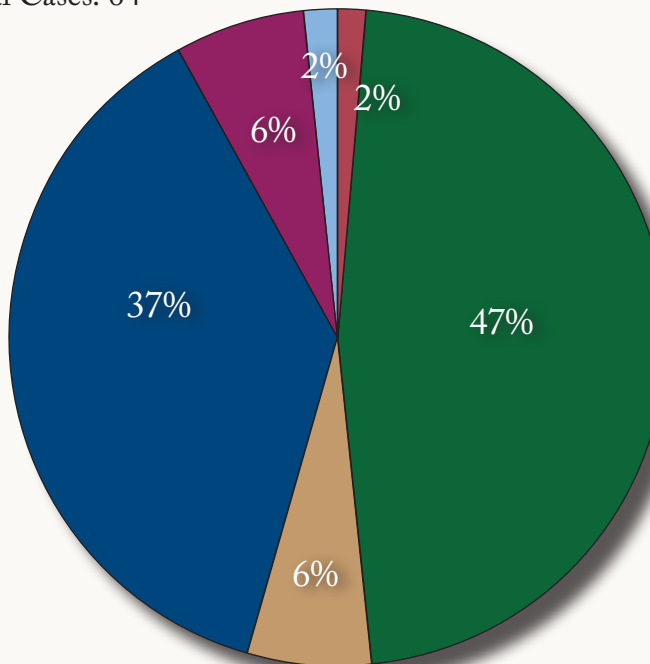


*DMV: Department of Motor Vehicles
 **FBI: Federal Bureau of Investigation
 ***ICE: U. S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement
 ****TSA: Transportation Security Administration
 *****USCIS: U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
 *****LPR: Legal Permanent Residency

^ Percentages are rounded to nearest whole percent

Employment Cases Reported

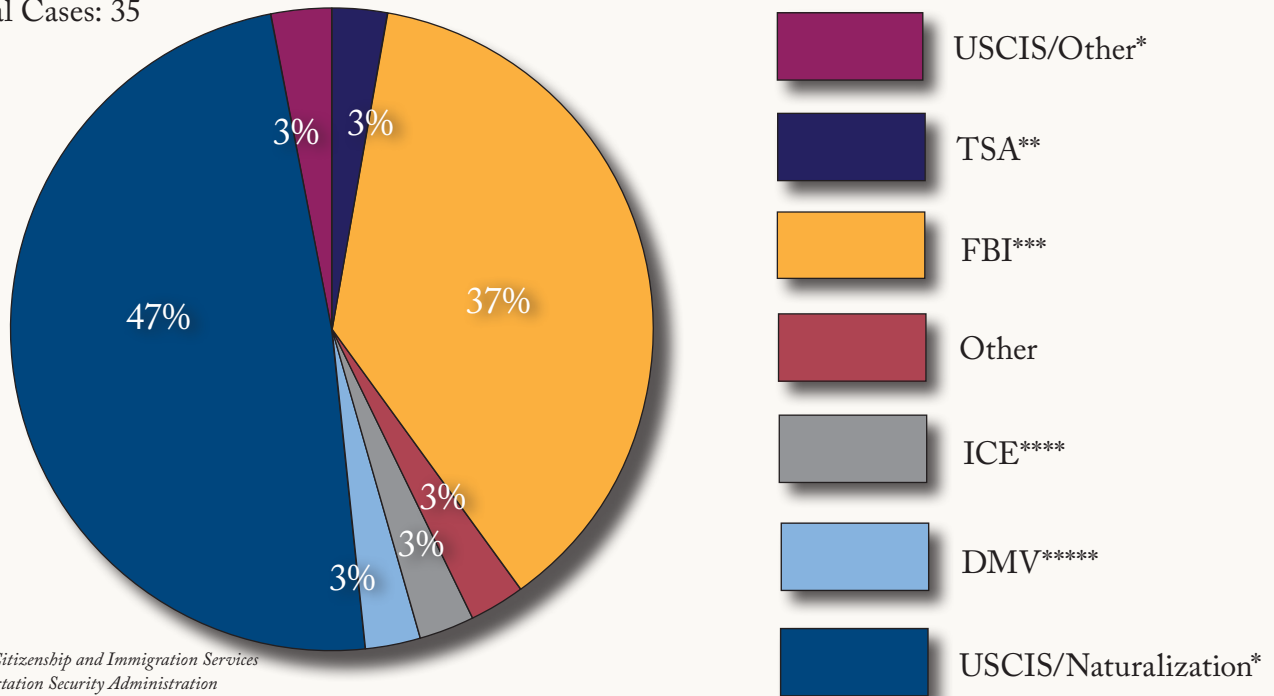
*Total Cases: 64



*Percentages are rounded to nearest whole percent

Government Cases Resolved

^Total Cases: 35

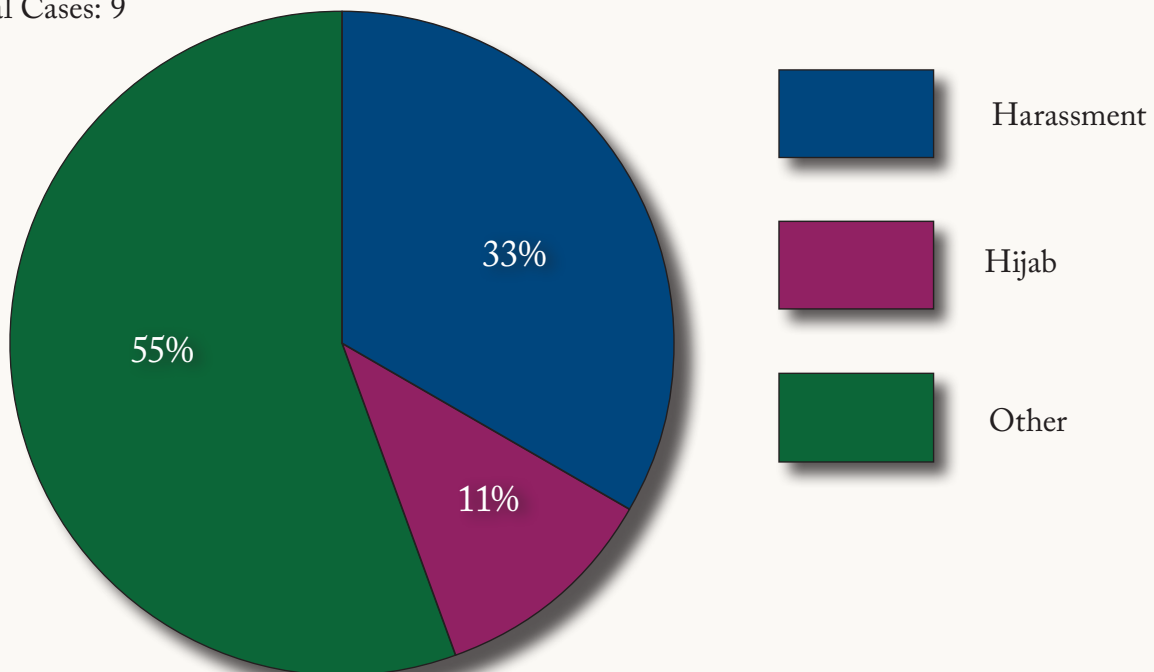


*USCIS: U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
 **TSA: Transportation Security Administration
 ***FBI: Federal Bureau of Investigation
 ****ICE: U. S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement
 *****DMV: Department of Motor Vehicles

^ Percentages are rounded to nearest whole percent

Employment Cases Resolved

*Total Cases: 9



*Percentages are rounded to nearest whole percent

“It’s simply not acceptable when government fails to uphold freedoms guaranteed by our Constitution.”

Citizenship Delay

In December 2011, after living in the United States for over 32 years, Iranian-born Masoumy Nejad was sworn in as a United States citizen. For the 60-year-old, citizenship came with the relief that the decades of harassment, waiting, and uncertainty were finally behind him.

Nejad first came to the United States in 1978, where he studied engineering at the University of Illinois, in Urbana-Champaign. During this time, Iran was in a state of revolution. The politically active Nejad was arrested in the United States for demonstrations and protests against the Shah of Iran. As a result, he was sent back to Iran in 1980. Six months later, he reapplied for a student visa and was allowed to return in 1981 where he resumed his studies at the University of Illinois.

Upon his return to the United States, Nejad was arrested once again, placed on probation for five years, and faced countless acts of harassment from FBI officials over his political involvement in Iranian politics.

“When I came back here, I continued my education at the University of Illinois,” he said of his arrest. “And one day I was going to school and two FBI agents jumped on top of me and arrested me like I was a terrorist.”

After his probation period, it took nearly three years for Nejad to secure permanent residency in the United States, despite being married to an American citizen at the time.

In 2008, FBI officials forced themselves into Nejad’s home and interrogated his Iranian wife for hours on his political activities while attempting to search the apartment. Next, they went to Nejad’s business where he refused to answer questions without an attorney present. His wife was later arrested by immigration officials, where she was questioned, harassed, and forced to remove her hijab.

In that same year, Nejad contacted CAIR-Chicago to assist him with obtaining U.S. citizenship. CAIR-Chicago Civil Rights Director Christina Abraham worked with Nejad on his application, prepared him for his interview, and made inquiries to USCIS regarding the status of his case.

In June 2010, after USCIS failed to make any decision on Nejad’s application, Abraham filed a complaint in federal court to obtain a decision. Unfortunately, the case was remanded back to USCIS, where Nejad was denied citizenship in October 2010.

“I was so surprised,” Nejad said of his ordeal. “It’s simply not acceptable when government fails to uphold freedoms guaranteed by our Constitution.” After continuous appeals by CAIR-Chicago to various USCIS officials, and the completion of two more citizenship interviews by Nejad, the decision was finally reversed and citizenship was granted to Nejad.

Litigation Director Kevin Vodak appreciated USCIS’s cooperation. “We are glad the USCIS made the right decision of granting Nejad citizenship, even if it took them three years to do it.”

“Mr. Nejad’s situation reflects how USCIS has large discretion when determining citizenship cases, despite specific standards set in place under the law,” said Vodak. “Our Civil Rights Department ensures that the Muslim community has a check against this discretion, and that applicants receive a timely and appropriate response on their applications.”

As for Nejad, U.S. citizenship came with a price – the many years of harassment and detention took their toll on Nejad’s personal and professional life.

He commends CAIR-Chicago for the help offered to him throughout his struggle.

“The Muslim people are subjected to this harassment for no reason, only for their religion,” he said. “And we have to thank CAIR-Chicago. We need an organization to protect us from this aggression. And I know CAIR-Chicago did a lot for me, and I appreciate them.”

In 2011, CAIR-Chicago received 28 complaints on citizenship issues, and another 38 complaints concerning other immigration issues. With the help of CAIR-Chicago, 17 individuals were naturalized as U.S. citizens.



“Mr. Nejad’s situation reflects how USCIS has large discretion when determining citizenship cases, despite specific standards set in place under the law. We ensure that the Muslim community has a **check** against this **discretion**.”

-Kevin Vodak, CAIR-Chicago Litigation Director

Outreach



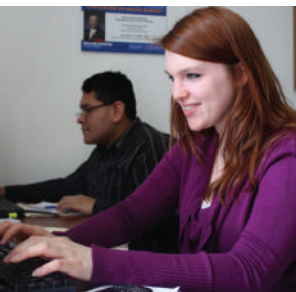
Outreach Coordinator Gerald Hankerson, joined CAIR-Chicago in 2007. He has over fifteen years of experience working in youth development and intercultural engagement.

The Outreach Department aims to educate and build bridges between 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.



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

-CAIR-Chicago Outreach Coordinator, Gerald Hankerson



Outreach interns, Kate Midden and Gabriel Gamez, Jr. work on public education campaigns.

In 2011, the Outreach Department broadened its efforts to welcome community members and supporters. By utilizing our new Gallery and producing video blogs that highlight civil rights issues, we have expanded the vision of CAIR-Chicago to increase opportunities for individuals and groups by fostering mutual understanding and galvanizing support.

The following are key accomplishments of the Outreach Department throughout 2011:

Muslim Youth Leadership Symposium (MYLS)

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

*Top right:
Board Member Yaser Tabbara,
Executive Director Ahmed Rehab
and Outreach Coordinator Gerald
Hankerson speak at 9/11 Press
Conference.*



MYLS participants learn to become active contributors in their communities at the annual conference held in September in CAIR-Chicago's Gallery.

This year, MYLS sponsored its eighth symposium, “Building Our Legacy: Embodying the Spirit of Activism.” The program focused on identity, media portrayal, leadership, and activism.

MYLS Highlights

MYLS participants had the privilege of meeting with the following distinguished speakers this year:

- Omar Mozaffar, Instructor of Islamic Studies at the University of Chicago and Elmhurst College
- Sadaf Syed, Author and Photographer of *iCover: A Day in the life of a Muslim-American COVERed Girl*
- Mike Swies, Program Coordinator at Convert Connection
- Ndidi Okakpu, Finance Manager at Inner-city Muslim Action Network (IMAN)
- Maria Omar, Director of Media Relations at The Islamic Food and Nutrition Council of America (IFANCA)

Former MYLS speakers include: Congressman Keith Ellison; Imam Zaid Shagr, Islamic Scholar; Rami Nashishibi, Inner-City Muslim Action Network (IMAN); and Professor Scott Alexander, Catholic Theological Union.



Young minds learn to lead at the annual MYLS conference.



Members of MYLS share ideas and experiences while tackling challenges of identity and representation.

TESTIMONIALS



MYLS participants create a sense of camaraderie with their peers.

*“I want to make a positive contribution to the community. I want to infuse my spirit into positive **action**.” - Yarah Kudaimi*

*“I had lots of doubts about realizing my dreams and aspirations for they were very ‘outside of the box’ but now I have more **confidence** [to pursue them].” - Mariam Abdel-Razik*

*“The symposium impacted me a lot because of the **inspirational** and great speakers and the rest of the MYLS/CAIR crew.” - Bakrieh Hassan*

*“I feel empowered to be an agent of **positive change**.” - Mohammed Hassan*

*“I was always interested in participating in an organization that really makes a **change** in society. The symposium taught me about helping people, standing up for something and defining my own identity.” - Sidrah Khalid*

Outreach

Civic Engagement

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

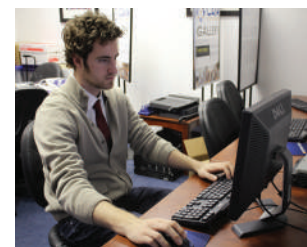
The entire office followed the “Radicalization of Muslims in America” hearings that were led by Congressman Peter King (R-NY) in the U.S. Committee on Homeland Security. We also kept a vigilant watch on a number of states that proposed unconstitutional anti-sharia legislation to allegedly prevent Islamic law and jurisprudence to supersede the U.S. Constitution.

CAIR-Chicago championed along with coalition partners for Illinois to become the first state to implement a version of the DREAM Act—legislation that will aid undocumented immigrants to seek U.S. citizenship through education or national service.

The office also mobilized with our state government in standing up to the Immigration Control Enforcement, being the first state to opt out of Secure Communities. Furthermore, our office supported the Smart Enforcement Act, a direct response to ICE’s (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) discriminatory and unregulated practice of arrests and deportations of people who have minor convictions or have never committed a crime. Government Affairs interns recorded video blogs to discuss the importance of such measures, and can be viewed on our YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/cairillinois).



Deputy Director, Sufyan Sobel with Imam Rufai of CIOGC at the NDAA rally in December, 2011.



Communications intern Andrew Catalafamo conducts archive research.



IL Attorney General Lisa Madigan speaks as Ahmed Rehab, U.S. Senator Dick Durbin, other elected officials, and other ICIRR leaders look on.

Outreach



CAIR-Chicago's internship program is promoted by over 120 universities across the nation who offer student credit for work at our downtown office.

Internship opportunities are partially offered through:

- Boston College
- DePaul University
- Loyola University Chicago (LUC)
- Indiana University at Bloomington
- Michigan State University
- Northwestern University
- Northeastern Illinois University
- Scripps College (California)
- University of Notre Dame
- University of Chicago
- University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC)

Externship opportunities are partially offered through:

- Chicago-Kent College of Law (IIT)
- DePaul College of Law
- Indiana University Maurer School of Law
- 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

Internship & Volunteer Activist Program

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

In 2011, the Outreach Department has recruited over **150 volunteer activists**, utilizing uniquely varied backgrounds, skills and professional interests to serve the greater

Chicagoland Muslim Community. CAIR-Chicago hosted **eight externs** from Indiana University's Hoosier Externship Program. In 2011, our internship program hosted **43 interns** from across the United States, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom.

Public Education & Academia

CAIR-Chicago staff members, from all departments, were invited to speak at prominent Illinois colleges and universities including Columbia College, DePaul University, Loyola University Chicago, Northern Illinois University, Northwestern University, Oakton Community College, Saint Xavier University, the University of Illinois at Chicago, and Wheaton College.

The staff also presented at St. Ignatius College Preparatory School and Francis Parker School, and hosted a class from DePaul University. Lastly, representatives presented a workshop for



Amina Sharif at Columbia College Career Fair

parochial elementary school teachers who work with Inner-City Teaching Corps (ICTC), a program of the Alain Locke Initiative. The topics ranged from basic educational seminars to more specific issues such as the history and current landscape of Muslim activism in the U.S.

CAIR-Chicago representatives were a part of the plenary panel discussions at the 48th Annual ISNA Convention and CIOGC-MPAC Conference.



Law clerks are an essential part of the CAIR-Chicago legal team.



Staff gathers with family and friends at the new CAIR-Chicago Gallery for the third annual Taste of Ramadan Cook-off and Iftar in August, 2011.

Mosque & Community Outreach

CAIR-Chicago staff delivered Friday sermons (khutbahs) at some of the largest mosques - throughout Chicagoland and our neighboring states - in an effort to promote key civic and humanitarian ideals fostered in Islam's teachings, and to bridge the mosque audience with the resources that CAIR-Chicago offers.

While our award-awarding website has long brought CAIR-Chicago to the community, our new gallery space is now bringing the community to CAIR-Chicago. As part of our opening ceremony, we sought the talent of community members through a photography contest simply called "Faces." CAIR-Chicago featured the ten winning photos at our grand opening, enlarging and displaying them as a permanent exhibit.

Our third annual Taste of Ramadan Iftar, the first event held in our Gallery, brought a record number of 300 friends and supporters delighting in nearly 50 dishes, desserts and beverages reflecting cuisines from around the world. The office also hosted the screening of the acclaimed documentary *Fordson: Faith, Football and Fasting* in October 2011.

CAIR-Chicago teamed up with Community Cinema, a ground-breaking public education and civic engagement initiative featuring free monthly screenings of films from the Emmy Award-winning series Independent Lens and other PBS presentations, to present *Bhutto* and *Welcome to Shelbyville*.

"While our award-awarding website has long brought CAIR-Chicago to the community, our Gallery is now bringing the community to CAIR-Chicago."



Event planning team hard at work.

Outreach

A Partial List of CAIR-Chicago's Community Partners

- *ACLU Chicago*
- *Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy program (CAPS)*
- *Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago (CIOGC)*
- *Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR)*
- *Inner-City Muslim Action Network (IMAN)*
- *Interfaith Workers Justice*
- *Jewish Council on Urban Affairs (JCUA)*
- *Rainbow PUSH Coalition*
- *Refugee One*
- *United African Organization*
- *Union League Club of Chicago*
- *United States Census Bureau*
- *Zakat Foundation*



CAIR-Chicago presented workshops at diverse religious institutions, including the First United Methodist Church in Western Springs and St. James Episcopal Church in Chicago.

Interfaith Engagement

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

CAIR-Chicago remains an active partner of the Jewish-Muslim Community Building Initiative (JMCBI), which hosts community events and study sessions on holy texts. One of the initiative's most successful events is *Café Finjan*, which regularly draws hundreds for an evening of creative performance and presentation of visual arts. Hosted at the University of Illinois at Chicago, attendees explored the crossroads Chicagoland's citizens face in the region's political scene, as well as the crossroads of ethnicities, cultures and religions that make Chicago a unique mosaic of humanity. CAIR-Chicago also co-hosted *Common Grounds*, a text study initiative between Muslims and Jews to discuss how faith traditions can be mutually applied to contemporary issues.

International Outreach

CAIR-Chicago welcomed international delegations of civic leaders, scholars, educators, activists, and law enforcement through partnerships with WorldChicago (formerly the International Visitors Center of Chicago), Northern Illinois University, and Heartland International. All delegates were guests of the U.S. Department of State.

Delegations in 2011 included representatives from Bulgaria, Egypt, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Tajikistan, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

At the 2011 Fulbright Regional Senior Scholar Enrichment Conference, CAIR-Chicago shared the Muslim perspective on immigration and human rights. The conference theme was "Democracy and Human Rights: An Exploration" and was attended by 85 Fulbright scholars from around the world.



Golden Door Coalition, a refugee housing initiative, meets at CAIR-Chicago's Gallery. Pictured: ICIRR Board President Alie Kaba and Refugee One Executive Director Greg Wangerin.

Outreach Highlights

- Outreach Coordinator Gerald Hankerson discusses Islam and American Politics at Wheaton College
- Ahmed Rehab speaks on the Arab Spring to a packed auditorium at Purdue University, among other universities
- Gerald Hankerson speaks on Islamophobia and Media Relations at Oakton Community College
- Outreach Coordinator Gerald Hankerson speaks at the Chicago Fringe Festival, reflecting on 9/11
- CAIR-Chicago's "Taste of Ramadan" Community Iftar held for the third year
- Community Alert: Illinois becomes first state to sign the DREAM Act into law
- CAIR-Chicago presents on Islam as an American Religion at Northwestern University
- CAIR-Chicago partners with Indiana University for Special Externship Program
- CAIR-Chicago speaks on Immigrant and Human Rights at WorldChicago's Fulbright Scholar Conference
- CAIR-Chicago speaks with Inner-City Teaching Corps
- CAIR-Chicago delivers presentation on Islam at First United Methodist Church in Western Springs
- Outreach Coordinator Gerald Hankerson appointed to board of ARISE Chicago
- CAIR-Chicago trains ICIRR Civic Engagement Fellows on Multicultural Event Planning



Students from Carthage College listen to presentation on Women in Islam at CAIR-Chicago's gallery.

“You should never fear defending your right to religious freedom. You have to stand up for what you believe in.”

Religious and Patriotic

When Shahrazad Ghusain, a junior at Alan B. Shepard High School in Palos Heights, returned to school after winter break, there was a noticeable difference in her appearance. Over break, she had decided to begin wearing hijab – a testament to her faith as an American-Muslim.

That first week back at school, she attended her AF JROTC (Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps) class where her instructors informed her that she could not wear hijab while wearing her uniform. She was given the ultimatum of removing the scarf and remaining in the program, or wearing the scarf and transferring out of the program.

She had worn hijab before, in junior high, but removed it after a few years when the teasing became too much to handle. Kids would call her a terrorist and try to pull the scarf off her head.

So when Ghusain told her mother, Mervat Ghusain, of her decision to wear hijab again, Mervat had her doubts.

“In the beginning, I was worried,” said Mervat. “To be honest, the school she is in, I could see the discrimination there. I had a few issues with the school before.”

Two weeks after Ghusain returned to school from winter break, she and her mother decided to file a complaint with CAIR-Chicago over the situation. Staff Attorney Rabya Khan handled the case, and followed up with Ghusain throughout the process.

At the same time, Ghusain began a waiver process proposed by her instructors to request that she be allowed to wear hijab for religious purposes – following the proper protocol as stated in the cadet uniform guidelines for the request of religious wear. For the procedure, she had to write a statement that she wore hijab for religious purposes, and send in a photo of herself in the uniform wearing hijab.

Throughout the waiver process, Ghusain was not allowed to dress in uniform while wearing hijab, and was instead told to dress in the JROTC casual attire; as a result, she did not receive full points for dressing in uniform.

Yet, Ghusain’s instructors continually expressed doubt to her that the waiver process would work, and stressed that she make a decision to either remove the hijab or drop the class.

“Every week they would come in with something new,” said Mervat. “Now we need a picture, now we need a letter. And [Shahrazad] asked them, ‘so what do I do now?’ And they said, ‘well you have to make a decision. It’s not up to us.’ But she made the decision in the beginning.”

At the beginning of February, nearly a month after Ghusain returned to school wearing hijab, the waiver was officially accepted.

“The fact that Shahrazad wants to practice her religion and serve her country should be commended, not punished,” said Staff Attorney Khan. “We support Shahrazad’s courageous efforts in not compromising her beliefs and remaining committed to the JROTC program.”

February 9th was Ghusain’s first day of the semester wearing both her uniform and hijab.

“It feels good now that I am wearing the uniform. It makes me happy,” said Shahrazad. “You should never fear defending your right to religious freedom. You have to stand up for what you believe in because if you don’t, people are going to step on you.”

In 2011, CAIR-Chicago’s Civil Rights Department has received over 333 discrimination complaints and continues to actively litigate and resolve these ongoing issues.



“The fact that Shahrazad does not see practicing her **religion** and serving her **country** as mutually exclusive should be **commended**, not **punished**.”

-Rabya Khan, CAIR-Chicago Staff Attorney

Communications

The Communications Department's mission is to help project a fair and accurate image of Islam and Muslims to the general public. We work with the media to challenge bias, bigotry, and prejudice in America's public discourse.

As a leading resource for news reporters, editors and producers, CAIR-Chicago regularly provides media professionals with research and expert analysis to help them understand the nuances and complexities of Muslim issues. We monitor the local media on a daily basis to compile research and to document on how the news media is reporting on Muslim issues. We also respond to the media by regularly writing letters to the editor to produce original commentary, correct misinformed or biased reports, bring in new perspectives, and reinforce balanced coverage of Muslims. CAIR-Chicago's extensive relationship with mainstream media outlets also allows us to ensure that Muslim voices are heard in public discourse.

The Communications Department also delivers cultural sensitivity trainings and educational seminars at universities, government agencies, and private companies across Illinois. We work closely with the clients of our civil rights attorneys to ensure they are



Amina Sharif, Communications Coordinator, has been with CAIR-Chicago since 2008 having formerly served as a communications intern.

“CAIR-Chicago’s extensive relationship with mainstream media outlets allows us to ensure that Muslim voices are heard in the public discourse.”

-CAIR-Chicago Communications Coordinator, Amina Sharif

given a public platform to discuss the discrimination that they have suffered. Covering a wide range of topics, the Communications Department conducts original research, releases public reports, delivers presentations on the state of media coverage, and produces the latest in new media including audio, video, graphics, web design, social media, and blogs.

2011 Review

In 2011, the Communications Department's efforts resulted in CAIR-Chicago being featured in the press nearly 170 times, advocating for victims of discrimination and sharing expert analysis on civil rights issues and Islamophobia.

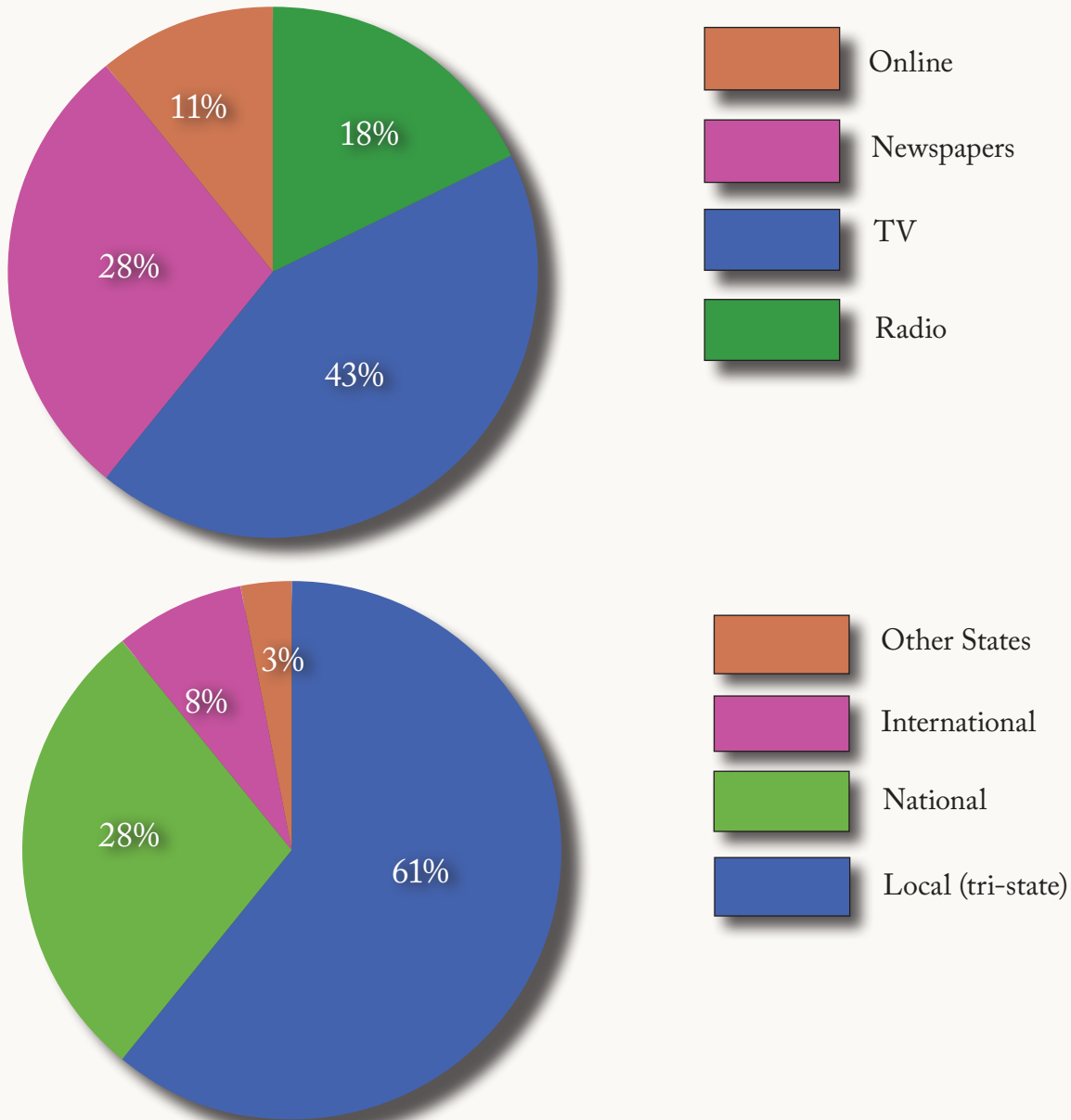


Communications Coordinator Amina Sharif speaks at CAIR-Chicago's press conference condemning the NDAA Senate bill.



Leena Saleh, Communications Coordinator, joined CAIR-Chicago in 2011 having formerly served as a communications intern.

CAIR-Chicago in the News Media



The Communications Department also embarked on an ambitious new venture – creating an in-house media production studio in the CAIR-Chicago office. The CAIR-Chicago production studio allows staff and activists to film and record video blogs, as well as public service announcements and documentaries.

The Communications Department also presented at several universities, government agencies, and businesses this year to educate the public, clear-up misconceptions of Islam, and provide analysis on news media.



Communications intern, Aabeda Marsa researches media representation of Muslims.

Communications



Aymen Abdel Halim, Communications Coordinator, joined CAIR-Chicago in 2011 having formerly served as a communications intern.



Executive Director, Ahmed Rehab speaks to ABC 7 about Lowe's pulling their ads from TLC's All-American Muslim.

Television Coverage

- CNN
- MSNBC
- FOX
- Voice of America
- NBC 5
- ABC 7
- CBS 2
- WGN
- CLTV



CAIR-Chicago in the News

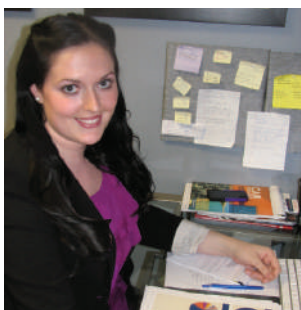
In 2011, CAIR-Chicago was featured, quoted or reported in the media 167 times locally, nationally, and globally. These included over 47 times in print media, 72 times on broadcast news (TV) and 30 times on radio, in addition to numerous references online. **Over the last eight years CAIR-Chicago has been in the news over a thousand times.**

CAIR-Chicago continues to monitor the local media on a daily basis with the purpose of flagging and challenging simplistic, inaccurate or biased reports while reinforcing fair, accurate, and diverse coverage of Muslims and Islam. Numerous articles and opinions pieces were written by CAIR-Chicago and printed in mainstream press in 2011. Last year, our staff and interns saw over a dozen letters-to-the-editor published, countering bigoted or inaccurate portrayals of Muslims and Islam by Chicago newspapers.

Since 2005 the Communications Department has been collecting all articles in major Chicago newspapers that discuss Muslims, minorities, religion, and social justice issues. Teams of interns tirelessly document their analysis in databases allowing CAIR-Chicago to track trends in coverage and produce reports on the quality of various publications.

Media Outreach

CAIR-Chicago organizes press conferences and issues dozens of press releases and media advisories annually in order to ensure that Muslim perspectives on vital issues and current events are represented in the mainstream media. CAIR-Chicago holds editorial board



Lyndsey Stemm, Communications Coordinator, joined CAIR-Chicago in 2010 utilizing her skills in graphic design.

meetings with major Chicago newspapers to discuss issues critical to Muslims. CAIR-Chicago's representatives have also presented reports, generated by our Media Monitoring Program, to local newspapers critiquing their coverage of Muslim issues.

Communications Coordinator Amina Sharif also spoke with editors of several major U.S. newspapers throughout the year to discuss their coverage of culturally sensitive issues and demand corrections of misinformation.

CAIR-Chicago has developed such a strong reputation with local media that journalists now come to us regularly seeking story ideas and news leads. This allows us to give the general public a better understanding of the American-Muslim community.

Workshops and Training Sessions

The Communications Department led numerous lectures and workshops for community leaders, students, mosques, and organizations. These sessions trained participants on how to engage the media and become more effective activists and community spokespersons.

Communications Coordinators Aymen Abdel Halim and Leena Saleh also deliver presentations to college students at numerous Chicago-area universities. These lectures are often provided to journalism classes where students are asked to discuss the media and its portrayal of minorities. Communications Coordinators Amina Sharif and Aymen Abdel Halim have developed in-class exercises to engage students in critical analysis of news reports. CAIR-Chicago teaches future journalists and news producers how to report on culturally sensitive issues and avoid generalizations and stereotypes.



Radio Coverage

- Clear Channel
- Chicago Public Radio- WBEZ
- NPR
- Fox News Radio
- WGN
- WBBM
- WLS
- WDCB
- WJBC
- Radio Islam

Newspaper Coverage

- New York Times
- Washington Post
- Chicago Tribune
- Chicago Sun-Times
- The Daily Herald
- Houston Chronicle
- Orlando Sentinel

Communications

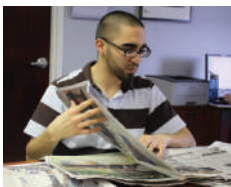
Cairchicago.org and Social Media

The Communications Department updates CAIR-Chicago's website, www.cairchicago.org, on a daily basis to provide up to date information on all of the organization's activities, as well as commentary on current events. CAIR-Chicago regularly redesigns the site to keep it visually appealing, easy to navigate, and more informative.

The award-winning website's sections have been designed to reflect the wide breadth of work performed by all CAIR-Chicago departments. The Multimedia page allows users to see a selection of our photos, films, radio, and TV clips. Cairchicago.org is also interactive and its updates are immediately made available on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Flickr. Together with the professional aesthetics, functionality, and cutting edge technology of the site, cairchicago.org is one of the largest and most tech-savvy, not-for-profit websites in the United States. Whether providing incident report forms for victims of discrimination or sharing information through video blogs, the website amplifies CAIR-Chicago's ability to serve the Chicago community.



Communications intern, Rana Khatib and volunteer, Mansour Aljunaydid work on editorials.



Volunteer Alonzo Alkivina, helps monitor media.

Above right: Communications intern, Agnieszka Karoluk and government affairs intern Kaitlin Taylor, updates posts via social media.



Communications intern, Susanne Falenczykowski records a vlog in our multimedia studio.



Multimedia Studio

The Communications Department continues to use new and innovative media and the latest technology to balance the public discourse on Muslims. This includes an in-house media production studio equipped with studio lighting, backdrops, and state of the art cameras and microphones.

The CAIR-Chicago media production studio is an essential part of the organization's mission to educate the public, contribute to public debate, and raise awareness of pressing issues. The studio is used regularly to film video blogs - or "Vlogs" - in which CAIR-Chicago staff and interns discuss current events and civil rights issues. It is also used to film public service announcements and short documentaries. These videos are featured on YouTube, Facebook, and cairchicago.org, and are often reposted by other websites, social feeds, and blogs.

Communications Department: Events and Outreach

Some of the activities of our Communications Coordinators in 2011:

- Discussed culturally sensitive reporting to journalism classes at Columbia College
- Presented to a Media Relations class at the University of Illinois in Chicago
- Spoke to a DePaul University class on Middle-East Communities in the United States
- Delivered a cultural awareness seminar to officers at the Tinley Park Police Department
- Discussed Shariah law and anti-Shariah legislation at Chicago-Kent College of Law
- Presented to a class on Multiculturalism at Roosevelt University
- Spoke at Lake Forest College regarding civil rights issues faced by American Muslims
- Led an activist training seminar along with CAIR-Chicago's Deputy Director, Sufyan Sohel, for fellows at the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR)
- Presented a media relations seminar for Muslim leaders during a conference on mosque zoning at the Islamic Foundation in Villa Park

Selected Newswire Coverage

Associated Press
Reuters
Chicago Breaking News
Medill News Service

Selected Online Coverage

Al Jazeera
Politico
Business Day
Mail and Guardian Online
MSNBC Online
Huffington Post
Atlantic Wire
Arab News
Islamophobia Today
New American Media
MCW News
On Islam
Today Online

“We are pleased to see many reject [Rep. Peter] King’s antics and support the Muslim community’s efforts against scape-goating.”

Fighting Islamophobia

CAIR-Chicago is a local and national leader in advocating for Muslims and pushing back against Islamophobia. Providing awareness and speaking out against gross injustices taking place throughout the country and the entire world, CAIR-Chicago has made strides as a voice for American-Muslims and citizens concerned with protecting their civil and constitutional rights.

As the Arab world began to find itself in the midst of political upheaval and revolution, CAIR-Chicago was at work providing eye-witness reports of Egypt’s revolution via Executive Director, Ahmed Rehab who participated in the Tahrir Square movement. And as the regimes in Libya and Syria—where board member Yaser Tabbara is of the international opposition leadership—exerted violence against protesters, CAIR-Chicago rallied against the oppressive regimes of these nations, releasing statements and Action Alerts calling for Americans to support the freedom protesters in the Middle East and North Africa.

The year 2011 has seen, perhaps, some of the worst cases of Islamophobia our country has ever witnessed. New York Rep. Peter King’s Congressional Muslim “radicalization” hearings were a kangaroo court. CAIR-Chicago, in alliance with other Chicago-based advocacy groups, responded immediately to King’s abuse of power. CAIR-Chicago held several public engagements to respond to the hearings, including radio appearances on WGN Radio and National Public Radio, challenging King’s hearings in the media.

“Rep. Peter King seems incapable of differentiating between individuals and a community, between the underground and the mainstream. The hearings seem to be little more than political theater on King’s part. We are pleased to see many of the witnesses reject King’s antics and support the Muslim community’s efforts against scape-goating,” responded Ahmed Rehab.

Other instances of Islamophobia included the home improvement chain Lowe’s decision to pull its advertisements from TLC’s reality show, *All American Muslim*, after receiving

pressure from the right-wing group, the Florida Family Association. Supporting an intensive e-mail campaign and boycott of the popular retail chain, CAIR-Chicago took great action calling out Lowe’s for their despicable decision.

In May of 2011, the Illinois Senate passed the Illinois DREAM Act, a huge feat for immigrant and refugee rights. With the support of CAIR-Chicago and other advocacy groups in Illinois, the Illinois Senate passed the bill with a bipartisan vote of 45-11. The Act will give undocumented immigrant children who were brought to the United States at a young age, the right and access to higher education. Additionally, the private DREAM fund will support these children in this endeavor as well as other educational programs.

CAIR-Chicago has worked incessantly to protest the 2011 extension of the PATRIOT Act which compromises American’s inalienable rights. The bill was first passed in October 2001 in reaction to the attacks of September 11th. The Act violates the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which is meant to protect all citizens from unreasonable search and seizure as well as surveillance and wire tapping.

On the same end, CAIR-Chicago also rallied against the new provisions introduced as a part of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which would allow the U.S. Military to arrest and detain American citizens without Due Process rights. CAIR-Chicago held rallies and called on Muslims - and all concerned Americans - to contact President Obama and demand that he not sign the NDAA as it undermines the civil liberties of all Americans.

As a leading advocate of justice, and the protection of our civil and constitutional rights, CAIR-Chicago has continued to play a prominent role in working towards a future without bigotry and a nation that embodies its fundamental values of dignity, freedom, and equality.



“CAIR-Chicago continues to be a rising force in the realm of **civil rights defense** and **advocacy** both in terms of public opinion and legal representation. Founded on strong **institutional principles**, CAIR-Chicago has blossomed into a national leader in the fight against Islamophobia to ensure **a future without bigotry.**”

LETTERS OF RECOGNITION



STATE OF ILLINOIS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

Pat Quinn
GOVERNOR

March 3, 2012

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

Greetings!

As Governor of the State of Illinois, I am pleased to welcome everyone gathered for the 8th Annual Banquet of the Council on American Islamic Relations – Chicago.

I want to commend the Council on American Islamic Relations for your ongoing commitment to serving the needs of Chicago's Muslim population and for working toward ensuring justice and civil rights for all the communities you serve. Your efforts help Muslims integrate into their communities and give them a sense of belonging in this large, multicultural city. With that said, I thank everyone in attendance for your dedication to advancing the wellbeing of Muslims throughout Illinois and across the country.

The only way for us as a society to truly achieve unity and equality is through an understanding of the many diverse cultures that make up this great country. By respecting and embracing our differences and recognizing what makes us all unique, we can come together and work towards "A Future Without Bigotry".

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

Sincerely,

Pat Quinn
Governor



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

RAM EMANUEL
MAYOR

March 3, 2012



Dear Friends:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Mayor

LETTERS OF RECOGNITION



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

Darryl K. Davis
7th District - Illinois



January 27, 2012

Ahmed M. Rehab
Executive Director
Council on American-Islamic Relations - Chicago Chapter
28 East Jackson Boulevard - Suite 1410
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Director Rehab:

Thank you for offering this opportunity to greet and welcome attendees at the CAIR-Chicago 2012 annual Banquet, Saturday, March 3, 2012. Illinois has one of the largest Muslim populations in the United States and I trust that this year's event, like events of past years, will be a great success.

The theme of this year's event, *A Future Worth Defending* speaks to one of our nation's most urgent issues and your unyielding commitment to justice not only for the Muslim community but for every member of our society. It reminds 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, reaffirmed and reconnected 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, person 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 conference, and an 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,

Darryl K. Davis
Member of Congress

DKD:ic



MIKE QUIGLEY
UNITED STATES CONGRESS



February 3, 2012

Dear Friends,

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

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

Sincerely,

Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



LETTERS OF RECOGNITION

BOBBY L. RUSH
1st DISTRICT, ILLINOIS
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
RANKING MEMBER, ENERGY AND POWER
CONSUMER, MANUFACTURING AND TRADE
COMMERCE AND TECHNOLOGY



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

ASSISTANT WRAP
CO-CHAIR
AFRICAN PARTNERSHIP FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH
CO-CHAIR
CONGRESSIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY CAUCUS
CO-CHAIR
JOB NOBEL CAUCUS
STEERING AND POLICY COMMITTEE

March 3, 2012

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



Dear Friends:

On behalf of the people of Illinois' First Congressional District, it is both a pleasure and an honor to extend my best wishes and warmest greetings to the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) and all those gathered for its 8th Annual Banquet. I am confident the event will be a phenomenal success.

On this special occasion, I'd like to thank the CAIR organization for helping to foster significant growth and prosperity in our communities through its successful training, education and community development programs. The theme of this year's event, "A Future without Bigotry", is a powerful reminder of the work that CAIR does every day to educate the public at large and improve relationships within our diverse communities.

Since its inception in 2004, CAIR has done a wonderful job of engaging all communities in building mutual understanding and trust. I would also like to commend the leadership of CAIR for promoting equal opportunities in government, education, economic development, and international affairs in order to advance the integration of all Muslims into the mainstream of society.

Congratulations again on all your achievements, and I wish all of you a very successful evening.

Sincerely,

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

BLR: ys

WASHINGTON
2209 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-1301

www.house.gov/rush

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700.706 East 79th Street
Chicago, IL 60645-3102
@BLOB

MEDLIANT
2225 West 147th Street
Morton, IL 60445-3611

JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.
2nd DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
LEADERSHIP AND
POLICE, DOMESTIC COUNCIL ON
FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING, EFFECT FINANCING
AND RELATED PROGRAMS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1302

March 3, 2012

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



Dear Friends:

I greet you with the traditional Islamic greeting: *As-Salamu 'Alaykum*. I congratulate the Chicago Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations on your 8th Annual Banquet and commend you on this year's theme, "A Future Without Bigotry."

I applaud CAIR-Chicago on another successful year of serving the needs of the Muslim population in Illinois, and for working toward ensuring justice and civil rights for all the communities you serve. Your commitment to education, justice, outreach, and empowerment not only serves to better the Islamic community, but the community as a whole. Through your work and organizations like yours, I am confident that some day there will be "A Future Without Bigotry", not only in the Midwest but in the United States of America.

On behalf of the residents in the Second District of Illinois, I wish you and your members continued success and please send my best wishes to every person at the event.

Sincerely,

Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.
Member of Congress

JLJJr. WG: kg

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1302
1208 225 0272

1101 S. WASHINGTON
CHICAGO, IL 60605
973 136-8000

1101 SOUTH HALSTED
HOUSTON, IL 60436
1408 798-6200

THIS LETTER WAS PREPARED, PRINTED, AND MAILED AT THE EXPENSE OF THE COMMITTEE

LETTERS OF RECOGNITION



GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE OF ILLINOIS

MICHAEL J. MADIGAN
SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



ROOM 800
STATE HOUSE
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

March 3, 2012

GREETINGS

As the Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives, I would like to welcome those who have gathered for the Chicago chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations' Eighth 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 against intolerance. These positive actions are critical in a world that is only becoming smaller, making us one global community.

That is also why it is important for us to view "A Future Without Bigotry" as not just the theme for this year's banquet, but as a call to action. The leaders of today will shape the leaders of tomorrow. They will learn from our actions, our deeds, and our attitudes. It is incumbent upon all of us to strive for a society free of hate to help ensure we are leaving a better state, country, and world for future generations.

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 ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Lisa Madigan
ATTORNEY GENERAL

March 3, 2012

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



Dear Friends,

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

The strength of America lies in its diversity. More than most any nation on Earth, America is truly a melting pot where people of all creeds, colors and religions come, drawn by our collective commitment to the value of human rights, democracy and equality. Trying times can challenge that commitment. That is one reason civil rights organizations, such as CAIR, are so important.

Your theme this year, "A Future without Bigotry," should remind us all that the strength of our nation grows from our mutual tolerance and the appreciation of our different cultures, religions and creeds. If we take the time to appreciate the differences, we quickly learn that in reality there is great commonality. Only through understanding and valuing our diversity can we truly achieve our nation's full potential. Division weakens us; cooperation makes us stronger.

Again, welcome to all in attendance tonight, and may 2012 prove to be a wonderful and successful year for CAIR-Chicago and all those it serves.

Very truly yours,

Lisa Madigan
ATTORNEY GENERAL

500 South Second Street, Springfield, Illinois 62706 • (217) 782-1090 • TTY: (877) 844-5461 • Fax: (217) 782-7046
100 West Randolph Street, Chicago, Illinois 60601 • (312) 814-3000 • TTY: (800) 964-3012 • Fax: (312) 814-3806
1001 East Main, Carbondale, Illinois 62901 • (618) 529-6400 • TTY: (877) 675-9339 • Fax: (618) 529-6416

LETTERS OF RECOGNITION



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
Springfield, Illinois 62156

Jesse White
Secretary of State

March 3, 2012



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

Greetings:

As Secretary of State, it is with pleasure that I welcome each of you to the Council on American-Islamic Relations, Chicago Chapter's 8th Annual Banquet.

CAIR-Chicago's Annual Banquet provides a wonderful opportunity to join family and friends in support of a great cause. This year's theme, "A Future without Bigotry," is a perfect reflection of your mission and goal for both Muslim and non-Muslim citizens throughout the Chicago area, Illinois and the neighboring Midwest.

Over the years, your organization has remained dedicated to defending civil rights, promoting tolerance and finding systematic solutions to barriers that have plagued the community. It is great to see that you continue to inspire the community and improve the lives of those living within it.

The people of Illinois join me in offering our thanks for your commitment to the Muslim community. Best wishes for a wonderful event and for continued success.

Sincerely,

JESSE WHITE
Secretary of State



OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER
DAN RUTHERFORD

March 3, 2012

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



Dear Mr. Rehab,

As treasurer of the great State of Illinois, it gives me great pleasure to send greetings and well wishes to the attendees of CAIR-Chicago's 2012 Annual Banquet.

The chosen theme for this event, "A Future without Bigotry," is one all persons of moral character should strive to pursue. Through its advocacy, outreach and education efforts, CAIR-Chicago has helped set the bar for civil rights organizations and helps serve as a model for those who seek to eradicate bigotry from all levels of our society.

I wish CAIR-Chicago the best as you gather to reflect on your achievements in 2011 and pray for your continued success in 2012 and beyond.

Congratulations on all your accomplishments and thank you again for all you do in pursuit of liberty and respect for all.

Sincerely,

Dan Rutherford
Illinois State Treasurer

Steve Castron | Justin R. Thompson Quinn | Elizabeth Dominus Cerynk | Maria Bralomo
Room 200 | 100 West Randolph Street, Suite 15-000 | 400 West Monroe Street, Suite 401 | One West Old State Capital Plaza, Suite 400
Springfield, IL 62701 | Chicago, IL 60601 | Springfield, IL 62704 | Springfield, IL 62761
Phone: (217) 785-2231 Fax: (217) 785-5777 Phone: (312) 844-7201 Fax: (312) 844-5930 Phone: (217) 282-6560 Fax: (217) 826-3821 Phone: (217) 285-6984 Fax: (217) 252-8585

WWW.TREASURER.ILL.GOV

LETTERS OF RECOGNITION



OFFICE OF THE SENATE PRESIDENT
STATE OF ILLINOIS

JOHN J. CULLERTON
SENATE PRESIDENT

327 STATE CAPITOL
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706
217-782-2728

March 3, 2012



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

Dear Friends:

I wish to commend CAIR-Chicago on another successful year of advocacy and bridge-building in Chicago and throughout the region. Your leaders, community organizers, and attorneys enhance our community by fighting for the rights of Muslims and all who share their values of tolerance, openness, and religious freedom.

The theme of this year's annual banquet, "A Future Without Bigotry," perfectly sums up the vision of CAIR-Chicago and illustrates the continuity between your organization's efforts to combat discrimination against and stereotyping of American Muslims, and the broader civil rights struggle that continues to define our city, state, and nation. All Illinoisans benefit from the tireless work of groups like CAIR-Chicago that embody Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s rallying cry that "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

From expanding legal aid services, to providing diversity training, to speaking about the Muslim religion and Muslim cultures at churches, synagogues, and universities, your organization has served its faith community and wider society admirably. May you enjoy continued success in your valuable endeavor.

Sincerely,

John J. Cullerton

ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



TOM CROSS
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE
318 STATE HOUSE
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62706
(217) 782-1331

DISTRICT OFFICE
24047 W. LOCKPORT ST., SUITE 213
PLAINFIELD, IL 60544
(815) 294-0000

January 24, 2012

Mr. Ahmed M. Rehab, Executive Director
Cair Chicago
28 East Jackson Blvd., Suite 1700
Chicago, IL 60604



Dear Mr. Rehab:

Please accept my warmest congratulations on the continued efforts of CAIR to foster and promote understanding of important political, social and economic issues that transcend cultural lines in our very diversified State.

CAIR is to be commended for its steadfast adherence to principles of equality, respect and trust which is reflected in the theme for CAIR's 2012 annual banquet: "A Future Without Bigotry". The theme is well chosen and very timely. Bigotry deflects attention to and thoughtful consideration of critical issues, and fosters an environment that insidiously chips away at the heart of constitutionally guaranteed freedoms.

Best wishes for a successful year in furthering CAIR's goals and initiatives.

Sincerely,

Tom Cross
House Republican Leader
State Representative, 84th District

RECYCLED PAPER • SOYBEAN INK

LETTERS OF RECOGNITION

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE
309A STATE HOUSE
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706
PHONE: 217-782-9407
FAX: 217-782-0419



ILLINOIS STATE SENATE
CHRISTINE RADOGNO
SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER
41ST SENATE DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1011 STATE ST., SUITE 110
LEWIS, ILLINOIS 62459
PHONE: 630/243-0800
FAX: 630/243-0808
CRADOGNO@SBOU.GOBALL.NET

February, 2012

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



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.

This year's theme, "A Future Without Bigotry," is further evidence of your commitment to educate the public and foster understanding of diversity within our communities. Your work in the Chicago Chapter has had a positive impact on the lives of many Illinois residents. I believe it could serve as a model for others looking to join the effort to promote equality for everyone.

Best wishes for another successful year.

Sincerely,

Christine Radogno
Illinois Senate Republican Leader
41st District

THE SENATE OFFICE
814 E CAPITOL BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706
217-782-0808
FAX: 217-782-1001

DISTRICT OFFICE:
2929 S WABASH, SUITE
102 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
60616 312-846-1038
FAX: 312-846-1068

WEBSITE:
SENATORHUNTER.COM

STATE OF ILLINOIS



MATTIE HUNTER
MAJORITY CAUCUS WHIP
STATE SENATOR - 3RD DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
BUDGET
HUMAN RESOURCES - SENATE
PUBLIC HEALTH - HOUSE-SENATE
IDENTIFICATION



February 7, 2012

Dear Members of CAIR-Chicago,

I want to extend my most sincere congratulations as you celebrate another successful year as the nation's fastest-growing Muslim civil rights organization. As we celebrate tonight, I want to thank you for your dedication to equality for all in our fine city of Chicago.

I want to also thank CAIR-Chicago and all who have gathered tonight for their commitment to a better tomorrow, for we are all brothers and sisters.

On behalf of the 3rd Legislative District, we give our support and our sincere well wishes to CAIR-Chicago as we celebrate your success this evening!

Sincerely,

Senator Mattie Hunter
Majority Caucus Whip
3rd Legislative District

RECYCLED PAPER - SOYBEAN INKS

LETTERS OF RECOGNITION



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF COOK COUNTY

118 NORTH CLARK STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602
(312) 603-6400
TDD (312) 603-8255

TONI PECKWINKLE
PRESIDENT



March 3, 2012

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, Chicago Chapter, as you gather together to hold your Eighth Annual Banquet.

I wish to commend you 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 transforming and empowering Cook County's Muslim American community.

I wish all in attendance an enjoyable and successful Banquet, as well as best wishes for your continued success.

Sincerely,

Toni Peckwinkle
President

DOROTHY BROWN
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT



Richard J. Daley Center
Chicago, Illinois 60602, Room 1001
312-603-5030
FAX 312-603-4557
www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

March 3, 2012

Mr. Ahmed M. Rehsb
Council on American-Islamic Relations – Chicago Chapter
28 E. Jackson Blvd., Ste. 1410
Chicago, IL 60604



Dear Mr. Rehsb:

Greetings to you and everyone attending the 8th Annual banquet for the Chicago Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations' (CAIR). I believe that your theme, "A Future Without Bigotry," encourage CAIR endeavors to unite individuals from various backgrounds, in support of the Council's mission to enhance understanding of Islam and build coalitions that promote justice.

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

It is also important to note that the Council seeks to empower the American Muslim community and encourage community members to participate in political and social activism.

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

Sincerely,

Dorothy Brown
Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County

LETTERS OF RECOGNITION



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

THOMAS J. DART
SHERIFF

March 3, 2012

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



Dear Friends,

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

As you celebrate your 8th Annual Banquet this year, I hope that you recognize the great strides you have made in providing outreach and encouragement to all Muslim American families in the Chicago area. I commend you on your continued commitment to civil rights and justice, allowing our city and our nation to prosper as a unified whole.

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

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

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Dart
Sheriff of Cook County



Rahm Emanuel
Mayor

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

Garry F. McCarthy
Superintendent of Police

January 20th, 2012

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



Dear Mr. Rehab:

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

Since its inception in 2004, CAIR - Chicago has worked diligently to defend civil rights, fight bigotry, and foster understanding among the many diverse communities within the City of Chicago and its surrounding municipalities. The theme of this year's Eighth Annual Banquet, *A Future Without Bigotry*, is one that embodies the future that your organization has worked tirelessly towards over the past eight years. CAIR - Chicago has not only helped champion the rights and liberties of the Muslim community but it has also established meaningful partnerships with groups of various faiths to promote justice and mutual understanding, setting an example for others to follow.

I wish you success in all your future endeavors and I thank you for your continued dedication and commitment to Chicago's Muslim community as well as for your contributions in promoting greater understanding and tolerance throughout our city.

Sincerely,

Garry F. McCarthy
Superintendent of Police
Chicago Police Department

Emergency and TTY: 911 • Non-Emergency and TTY (within City limits): 311 • Non-Emergency and TTY (outside City limits): (312) 746-4000
E-mail: police@cityofchicago.org • Website: www.cityofchicago.org/police

LETTERS OF RECOGNITION



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



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

March, 2012

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



Dear Friends,

Congratulations to the Council on American-Islamic Relations as you celebrate the hope for "A Future without Bigotry" at your 8th Annual Banquet. Your work in protecting the civil rights of Muslim Americans along with your efforts to promote greater understanding between communities benefit us all as citizens of Illinois and of this nation.

Best wishes to you as you gather to reflect on another year of achievements, and continued success to you in all your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

David Orr



CITY OF CHICAGO

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ROOM 301 CITY HALL

ALDERMAN EDWARD M. BURKE
CHAIRMAN

TELEPHONE
744-3380

January 24, 2012

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



Dear Friends,

As Chairman of the Chicago City Council Committee on Finance, I extend my warmest greetings to the members of CAIR-Chicago, the fastest growing chapter of the nation's largest Muslim civil rights organization.

Your tireless advocacy and commitment to promoting a broader understanding of cultures is truly commendable. By promoting diversity and defending civil rights, you have done much to halt the cycle of intolerance which can isolate and divide our communities.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable evening as you celebrate your Eighth Annual Banquet.

Yours truly,

Edward M. Burke
EMB/dk/dq

LETTERS OF RECOGNITION

CAPITOL OFFICE:
1058 CAPITOL BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706
217/82-9463
FAX: 217/857-3908



Carole A. Pankau
STATE SENATOR • 23RD DISTRICT



DISTRICT OFFICE:
ONE TIFFANY POINTE, SUITE G
81 DOWNSDALE, ILLINOIS 60108
630/582-0390
FAX: 630/582-0391

January 19, 2012

CAIR-Chicago
28 E. Jackson Blvd.
Suite 1700
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear CAIR-Chicago and Friends,

It is my great honor to extend upon you and your council my sincerest congratulations for your outstanding advocacy work on behalf of the Muslim community in Chicago and Illinois.

Your goal of ensuring justice for embattled Muslims who face ignorance and intolerance because of their religious beliefs is laudable. And your work to advance the civil rights of Muslims is a shining example for all of us, no matter our religious beliefs or our race or background. Indeed, CAIR-Chicago's commitment to engage all communities in building mutual understanding and trust is helping to improve human relations throughout the land.

Violence, racism and hate are never the solution to the world's problems. Your efforts to identify and eradicate discrimination against Muslims and all people should be rewarded and recognized. I know as a state Senator that people should use the political system to work for them and CAIR-Chicago has a record of achievement in teaching Muslims to stay politically active and positively engaged in government. I commend your organization for the excellent work you perform for the public including legal assistance, voter registration drives, community workshops, internships and community service opportunities, "know your rights" educational campaigns, and training of mosques and Muslim centers on how to contact local and national politicians.

Regardless of our differences, our nation is one that achieves greatness when we come together to appreciate the beauty of one another's ideas, voices, and experiences. CAIR-Chicago's work to empower the Muslim community and to foster an understanding between Chicago's Muslim and non-Muslim communities should serve as a model for the rest of the world to learn how to live together in peace and harmony.

Thank you for the opportunity to dialogue with the Muslim community and congratulations for the fine public service you provide.

Sincerely,


CAROLE BANKAU
State Senator
23rd Senate District

KWAME RAOUL
*** Illinois State Senator 13th District ***



Council on American-Islamic Relations
Chicago Office (CAIR-Chicago)
28 East Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1700
Chicago, Illinois 60604-2276

Friends:

On behalf of the people of the 13th Legislative District, I bring greetings to the participants of the Council on American-Islamic Relations' 8th Annual Banquet.

CAIR has been an active voice in the discourse surrounding the concept of justice for all. The people at CAIR have embraced King's philosophy that "our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." It's that vigor and enthusiasm that has allowed CAIR to put inclusion and civil rights at the forefront of their organization's platform.

As the sponsor of the Illinois Voting Rights Act of 2011, it is my honor to share in CAIR's vision of "A Future Without Bigotry." We still have work to do to end discrimination but I'm convinced that no task is too great to accomplish when we all work together.

Again, I salute you all and thank you for your work to make Illinois a better place for everyone.

Best wishes,



Senator Kwame Raoul
13th Legislative District

LETTERS OF RECOGNITION

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE:
105E State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706
PHONE: 217.782-8107
FAX: 217.782-8116
SENATOR@SACIL.COM



ILLINOIS STATE SENATE
RON SANDACK
STATE SENATOR
21ST SENATE DISTRICT

THURSDAY OFFICE:
310 S. MAIN
LEONARD, ILLINOIS 60145
PHONE: 630.792-0643
FAX: 630.792-8623

January 24, 2012

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




Dear Mr. Rehab:

Congratulations to the Council on American Islamic Relations on your 8th Annual Banquet celebrating your successes. Your mission to defend civil rights fight bigotry and promote tolerance has my full support.

Your theme, "A Future without Bigotry" encourages all of us to better understand and respect one another. We must continue our fight for true equality for everyone. Thank you for your efforts in promoting all of our freedoms.

Best wishes and much success on your event and making our communities a better place to live.

Sincerely,


Ron Sandack
State Senator, 21st District

STATE SENATOR RON SANDACK
OFFICE: 105E STATE HOUSE, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706
PHONE: 217.782.8107 FAX: 217.782.8116
SENATOR@SACIL.COM

Illinois House Of Representatives

Springfield Office
200-15 Senator Office Building
Springfield, Illinois 62706
217.782.7752
(217) 782.8937 FAX



District Office
2450 West 32nd Street
Chicago, Illinois 60632
(773) 663-6711
(773) 663-6752 FAX

Dena M. Carli
State Representative
1st District



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

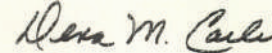
Dear Friends:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for doing so much to educate the Chicagoland area about the Muslims community.

By education and example you have reached out to many communities that would otherwise share in the wide misunderstanding of the Muslim religion. Being in law enforcement along with serving as a legislator for the State of Illinois, I am no stranger to hate crime and discriminatory practice. I feel that it is unfortunate that the lack of understanding is the main motivator for a lot of these issues. The dedicated members of your council are the difference that our communities, and world, need to help raise awareness for social acceptance and equal opportunity.

I encourage you to continue to do what you're doing and keep growing. I applaud you for all your efforts.

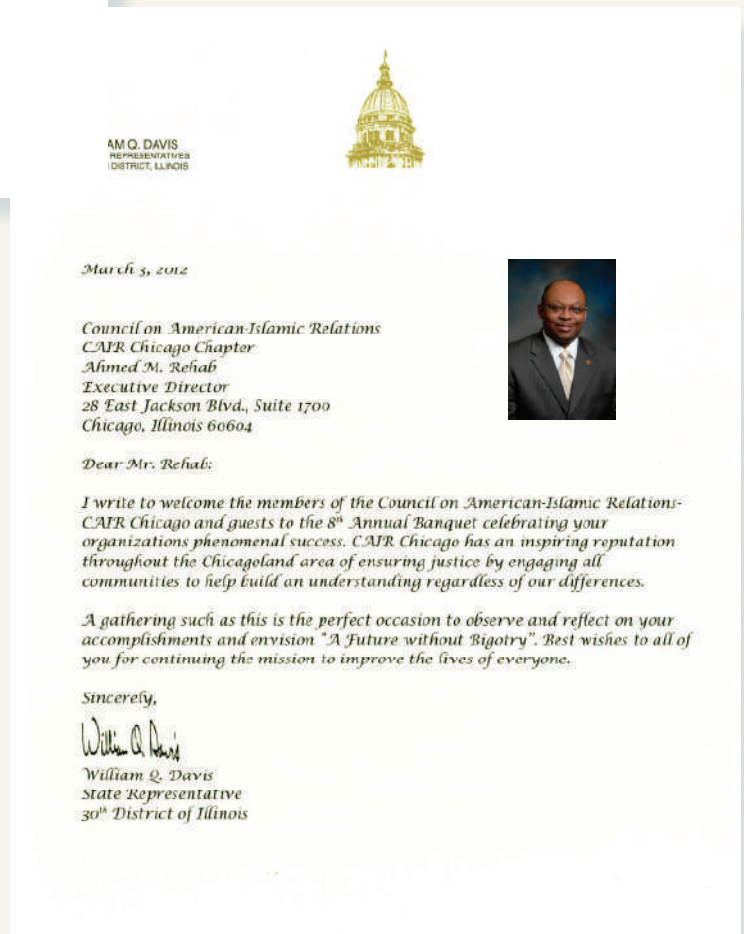
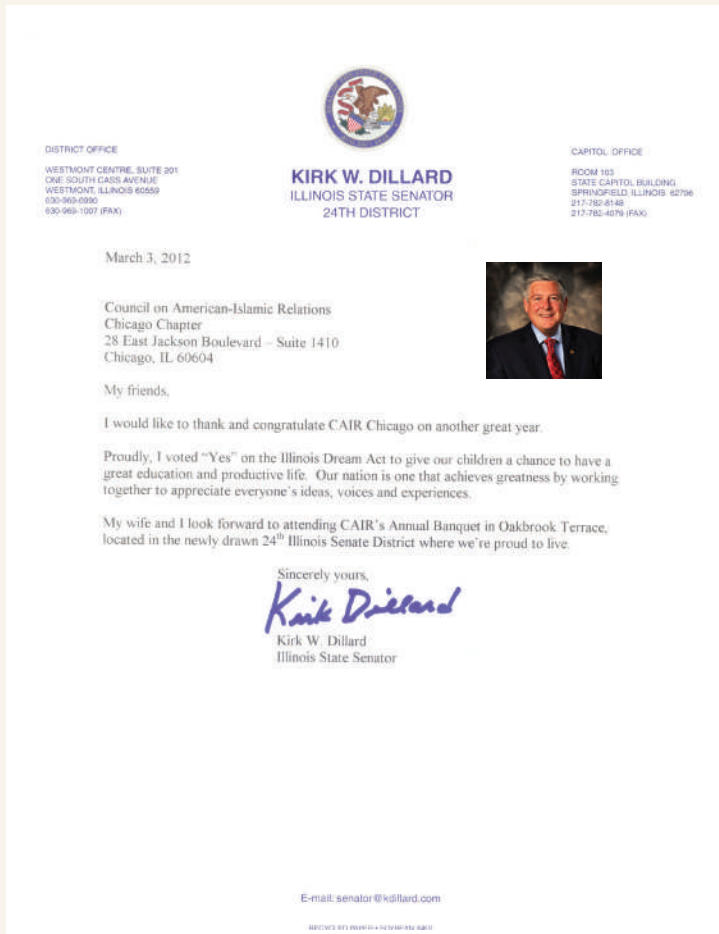
Sincerely,



Dena M. Carli
Illinois House of Representatives
1st District

RECEIVED AFTER 11:00AM/2012

LETTERS OF RECOGNITION



LETTERS OF RECOGNITION

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

STATE OF ILLINOIS
 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
 500 NORTH LAUREL STREET
 SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62761
 TEL: 217-243-1100
 FAX: 217-243-1101
 WWW.ILLINOISLEGISLATURE.GOV



Mary E. Flowers

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
 31ST DISTRICT



February 9, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Rehab:

The theme for the 2012 CAIR-Chicago's 8th Annual Banquet celebration "A Future without Bigotry" is so profound and so breathtakingly beautiful. A motto and living legacy CAIR-Chicago symbolizes and practices in promoting unity and respect for people of all nationalities, all walks of life. CAIR-Chicago thus transcends loving goodwill and encourages others to reciprocate in kind which can indeed succeed in motivating and furthering this outstanding theme, "A Future without Bigotry" throughout our nation and the world.

I am once again honored and privileged to send this letter of support and to express the enormous pride I have in the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-Chicago) as it continues its outstanding contribution to the growth, development and unity of our society.

Sincerely,

Mary E. Flowers
 State Representative 31st District

MEF/ej



DISTRICT OFFICE:
 4028 SOUTH ASHLAND
 CHICAGO, IL 60609
 773-238-8880
 FAX: 773-525-6884
 Email: esthengolar@bcglobal.net

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE:
 246-W STRATTON BLDG.
 SPRINGFIELD, IL 62706
 217-782-9971
 FAX: 217-536-8370

ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



ESTHER GOLAR
 STATE REPRESENTATIVE - 6TH DISTRICT

- MEMBERS:
- ILLINOIS LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS - HOUSE CHAIRPERSON
 - PUBLIC POLICY & ACCOUNTABILITY FOR EDUCATION - CHAIRPERSON
 - DISABILITY SERVICES - VICE CHAIRPERSON
 - JUDICIARY II (CRIMINAL LAW (GANG CRIMES))
 - ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION (SUBCOMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTABILITY)
 - HEALTH CARE AVAILABILITY AND ACCESS
 - MEDICAID REFORM



March 3, 2012

Greetings!

As a representative of the Illinois General Assembly, I extend my warmest greetings to all of those gathered for the 8th Annual Banquet of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, Chicago Chapter (CAIR-Chicago).


Your event's theme, "A Future without Bigotry", resonates with CAIR-Chicago's efforts to promote social justice for all. For instance, CAIR-Chicago's advocacy and mobilization in 2011 helped give Illinois the honor of being the first state in the nation to opt out of the "Secure Communities" program and the first state in the nation to actually implement a version of the DREAM Act. I commend you for the vital work you do for the Muslim community in the areas of civil rights, media advocacy, community outreach and civic engagement.

On behalf of the residents of Illinois, I wish you an enjoyable and memorable event and send my best wishes for your continued success.

Very sincerely,

Esther Golar
 State Representative, 6th District

LETTERS OF RECOGNITION




COUNCIL CHAMBER
CITY HALL, ROOM 300
121 NORTH LA SALLE STREET
CHICAGO, IL 60602
TELEPHONE: (773) 744-2000
FAX: (773) 744-4444

GEORGE A. CARDENAS
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CHICAGO

ALDERMAN, 12TH WARD
2438 WEST 28th STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60608
TELEPHONE: (773) 522-8430
FAX: (773) 522-8740
WEBSITE: CITYOFCHICAGO.ORG

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS
Health and Environmental Protection
(Chairman)
Budget
Children, Parks & Ethics
Finance
Health and Public Safety
Housing and Real Estate
Labor and Government Relations



March 3, 2012,

Ahmed M. Rehab,
Executive Director,
Chicago Chapter
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)
Chicago, Illinois 60604


Dear Friends,

As Chairman of the Committee on Health and Environmental Protection, I would like to extend my warmest greetings to the members of CAIR-Chicago on another successful year!


I congratulate you on your efforts in promoting diversity and freedom of religion across Chicago. Your commitment and advocacy towards ethnic tolerance is commendable.

Best wishes and may you continue the great work as you celebrate your 8th Annual Banquet.

Sincerely,



George A. Cardenas
Chairman, Committee on Health & Environmental Protection




CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CHICAGO
CITY HALL, ROOM 300
121 NORTH LA SALLE STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602
TELEPHONE: (773) 744-2000

WILLIE B. COCHRAN
ALDERMAN, 20TH WARD

6357 SOUTH COTTAGE GROVE AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60637
TELEPHONE: (773) 525-5610
FAX: (773) 855-5512

E-MAIL: WILLIE.COCHRAN@CITYOFCHICAGO.ORG

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS
Auction
Budget
Children, Parks & Ethics
Economic, Cultural and Community Development
Finance
Health and Environmental Protection
Labor and Government Relations



January 27, 2012

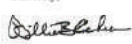
Ahmed M. Rehab, Executive Director
Council on American-Islamic Relations
Chicago Chapter
28 East Jackson Blvd., Suite 1700
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Executive Director Rehab:

Jai-Salaam-Ahlan! On behalf of the citizens of Chicago's 20th Ward, I congratulate the Council on American-Islamic Relations, Chicago Chapter (CAIR-Chicago) on the occasion of your 8th Annual Banquet to be held on March 3, 2012. Your event's theme, "A Future without Bigotry," provides an opportunity for all of us to vision and support the accomplishment of this noble goal.

I am honored to unite with members of the Illinois Muslim community and all citizens of good will throughout our city, state and nation in applauding the work of CAIR-Chicago and celebrating your accomplishments again this year at your Annual Banquet.

Sincerely,



Willie B. Cochran
Alderman, 20th Ward
WBC/hh



PUBLIC SERVICE OFFICE
404 WEST LAWRENCE AVENUE, 3RD FLOOR
TELEPHONE: (773) 739-6684
FAX: (773) 739-2332
E-MAIL: PUBLICSERVICE@CITYOFCHICAGO.ORG

MARGARET LAURINO
ALDERMAN, 39TH WARD

CITY HALL - ROOM 300
121 NORTH LA SALLE STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602
TELEPHONE: (312) 444-1292
FAX: (312) 744-0717

CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS
Policeman and Traffic Safety (Chairman)
Budget and Government Operations
Children, Parks and Ethics
Education and Child Development
Finance
Housing Development and Audit
Zoning, Landmarks and Building Standards



February 2012,

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

Greetings,

As Alderman of the 39th Ward, I extend my congratulations and best wishes to the Council on American-Islamic Relations-Chicago, for a wonderful annual banquet.


Your organization is a renowned leader in promoting cultural understanding, civil liberties and religious freedom. CAIR-Chicago continues to deliver a range of services to meet the needs of the Muslim-American community not only in Chicago, but throughout the State of Illinois. The theme of this year's banquet, "A Future Without Bigotry", reiterates your mission to engage every community in building mutual understanding and trust.

On behalf of myself and the residents of the 39th Ward, please accept my warmest regards for a delightful evening and continued success in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,



Margaret Laurino
Alderman, 39th Ward




CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CHICAGO
COUNCIL CHAMBER
CITY HALL - ROOM 300
121 NORTH LA SALLE STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602
TELEPHONE: (312) 744-2000
FAX: (312) 744-4400

EMMA M. MITTS
ALDERMAN, 27th WARD

3344 West Moore Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60632
Telephone: (773) 743-2894
Fax: (773) 246-0748
E-Mail: emmits@cityofchicago.org

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS
Energy, Environmental Protection & Public Utilities (De-Chairman)
Finance and Ethics
Economic and Community Development
Policeman and Fire
Auction
Budget and Government Operations
Traffic Control and Safety



January 23, 2012

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

Dear Ahmed M. Rehab:

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

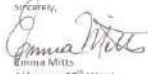
I respect your willingness to work with individuals and organization with diverse backgrounds. Our nation is one that achieves greatness when we come together to appreciate one another's ideas, voices and experiences; making the United States the most exceptional country in the world. Continue to strive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

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


Therefore, with full confidence I support CAIR Chicago and give my favorable consideration on behalf of the people of the 27th Ward.

Please contact me should additional information become necessary.


Sincerely,



Emma Mitts
Alderman 27th Ward
EMM/mp



LETTERS OF RECOGNITION



JOSEPH A. MOORE
ALDERMAN - 49th WARD
123 NORTH DEARBORN AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60642
TELEPHONE: 773-739-7792
www.a19.org

**CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CHICAGO**

COUNCIL CHAMBER

City Hall, Room 303
121 North LaSalle Street
Chicago, IL 60602
TELEPHONE: 312-744-2667

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

HUMAN RELATIONS
Chairman


BEYOND THE GOVERNMENT CHAMBERS

COMMITTEE ON POLICE AND ETHICS
Member

HEALTH CARE AND PUBLIC SAFETY
Member

January 23, 2012

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

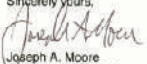



Dear Mr. Rehab:


Congratulations to the Chicago Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-Chicago) on its 8th Annual Banquet! As the Alderman for one of the most diverse wards in the City of Chicago, I know that the first step towards peace is a better understanding of your fellow neighbors, so I commend you on yet another year of successfully engaging our community in thoughtful dialogue in efforts of building mutual acceptance and trust.

As the Chair of the City of Chicago Committee on Human Relations I am committed to ensuring that all Chicagoans' civil rights are respected and defended, a charge made easier by the tireless and unwavering efforts of CAIR-Chicago in defense of civil rights, combating anti-Muslim prejudice and discrimination in the workplace, in government, and in our communities. Working together, I believe we can make a more livable, happier, healthier community, where people of all backgrounds learn to respect each other—a "Future without Bigotry"—possible.

On behalf of the residents of the 49th Ward, I thank you for all that you do!

Sincerely yours,

Joseph A. Moore
Alderman, 49th Ward





PROCO "JOE" MORENO
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CHICAGO

ALDERMAN - 1ST WARD
3008 North Western Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60647
TELEPHONE: 773-378-0101
FAX: 773-378-2541

**CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CHICAGO**

COUNCIL CHAMBER

City Hall, Room 303
121 North LaSalle Street
Chicago, IL 60602
TELEPHONE: 312-744-2667
FAX: 312-744-2675

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS


Economic, Grants, Technology Development & Public Utilities
Chairman

FINANCIAL SERVICES, PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES
Member

SPECIAL EVENTS & EXHIBITS AFFAIRS
Member

February 8, 2012

Chicago Council on American-Islamic relations,
Chicago Chapter (CAIR-Chicago)
28 East Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1700
Chicago, IL 60604




To Whom It May Concern:


As Alderman of the 1st Ward, it is my pleasure to provide this letter endorsing the work, and recognizing the successes, of your organization.

I believe that diversity is our nation's biggest strength and your organization encourages understanding and promotes intelligence, which will continue to move people closer to this understanding. Our Muslim community is one of the most misunderstood and you do vital work to change this unfortunate fact.

I look forward to attending CAIR's 2012 annual banquet, "A Future without Bigotry," and thanking you for your efforts, in-person.

Thank you for your attention to this letter.

Sincerely,

Proco Joe Moreno
Alderman, 1st Ward



BRENDAN REILLY
ALDERMAN - 42ND WARD
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CHICAGO

42ND WARD OFFICE
425 West Huron Street
Suite 810
Chicago, Illinois 60604
TELEPHONE: (312) 898-4340

CITY HALL OFFICE
City Hall - Room 303
121 North LaSalle Street
Chicago, Illinois 60602
TELEPHONE: (312) 744-3042

www.a42.org

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

Business, Health, and Ethics
Member


Health
Member

Traffic, Transportation and Public Works
Member

ALDERMAN RODERICK T. SAWYER
6TH WARD

January 25, 2012

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





Dear Mr. Rehab,

As Alderman of downtown Chicago's 42nd Ward, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to the Council on American-Islamic Relations on another successful year!

I support CAIR's efforts to serve the Chicago Muslim population in promoting cultural understanding and religious tolerance. Your theme this year, "A Future without Bigotry," stresses the importance of engaging with other communities and building understanding and trust. I am confident that CAIR will continue to be a positive influence and help shape our communities for the better.

Congratulations again, as you continue your very important work.

Sincerely,

Brendan Reilly
Alderman, 42nd Ward



ALDERMAN RODERICK T. SAWYER
6TH WARD

**CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CHICAGO**

COUNCIL CHAMBER

City Hall, Room 303
121 North LaSalle Street
Chicago, IL 60602
TELEPHONE: 312-744-2667
FAX: 312-744-2675

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS


Economic, Grants, Technology Development & Public Utilities
Chairman

FINANCIAL SERVICES, PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES
Member

SPECIAL EVENTS & EXHIBITS AFFAIRS
Member

February 7, 2012

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



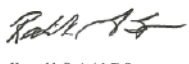
Greetings:

I welcome each and every one of you to the 8th Annual Banquet of the Chicago Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR). I fully support the goals and achievements of this organization and wish to thank all of you for supporting them in their important mission.

This year's theme, "A Future without Bigotry," sets an audacious goal that deserves the full support of all elected officials, community organizations, religious leaders and citizens. I believe that this goal can be reached if we focus on the values associated with service. When we are focused on helping our brothers and sisters we create a unity in the ties that bind us rather than the differences that separates us. It is by focusing on these similarities, and the values that make us all the same, that we bring the goal of a future without bigotry within reach.

Through your years of promoting greater understanding and unity in Chicago through the Muslim community as well as providing legal services, diversity training and other community based programming; you have provided vital work towards the improvement of the entire city.

This is why I support the good works of CAIR and am committed to being a steadfast partner in service to the greater community.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Roderick T. Sawyer
Alderman, 6th Ward

4630 EAST 38RD STREET • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60619 • 773-653-0906 • Fax 773-951-3876

LETTERS OF RECOGNITION

VILLAGE OF BRIDGEVIEW
 7500 S. Dixie Ave • Bridgeview, IL 60455 • Phone 708-594-2525
 Village President: Steven M. Landek

College: Dr. George Bernini, J. Paulino, James A. Chalko, Patricia A. Huggins, Mary J. Sotom, Michael J. Pickett, Claudette Struble
 Mayor: Steven M. Landek

February 15, 2012

Congratulations

It is my great pleasure, once again, to extend my best wishes and congratulations to CAIR-Chicago on its 8th Annual Banquet. Your theme this year, "A Future without Bigotry", shares with our Motto, "A Well Balanced Community", a common goal of creating communities, and in the aggregate a society, where everyone feels welcome and where no talent or potential is wasted because of hate, fear, or exclusion.

Having a well balanced community and a future without bigotry can only be achieved when responsible stakeholders in our society do their part. I assure you that we work hard every day to make our Motto a reality in Bridgeview. I am grateful that you are doing your part to make your theme a reality for all of us in Illinois.

I continue to be impressed with CAIR-Chicago for its work encouraging Arab and Muslim Americans to be proactive and to participate in the daily life of their communities while standing up for their rights and projecting a positive picture of their faith and heritage.

On behalf of myself and the Board of Trustees I wish you a wonderful and fruitful annual event.

Sincerely,


 Mayor, Steven M. Landek



HOME OF TOYOTA PARK FUN within reach
 Phone 1-294-8155 • ToyotaPark.com
 7000 S. Harlem Ave • Bridgeview, IL 60455 • Phone 708-594-7200 • Fax 708-496-6060

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
 GERALD R. BENNETT
 Mayor

January 16, 2012



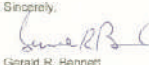
Mr. Ahmed M. Rehab,
 Executive Director
 Council on American-Islamic Relations
 28 East Jackson Blvd., Suite 1700
 Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Rehab,

It is my pleasure again, as Mayor of the City of Palos Hills, to send my best wishes to everyone attending the 8th Annual Banquet of the Chicago Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-Chicago).

Your theme this year, "A Future without Bigotry" is reflective to everyone the importance of building an understanding among all communities, regardless of faith or creed. America is a true melting pot and that diversity is America's strength. CAIR-Chicago has been an instrumental organization in fostering respect and understanding in all cultures throughout the Chicago-land area and you are to be commended for your efforts.

As Mayor of my City, and along with mayors throughout the metropolitan area, please continue your efforts on behalf of the Arab and Muslim American citizens you represent.

Sincerely,

 Gerald R. Bennett
 Mayor
 City of Palos Hills

GRB/mrh


10335 South Roberts Road • Palos Hills, Illinois 60465 • Telephone (708) 598-3400

Village of Villa Park
 20 South Ardmore Avenue, Villa Park, Illinois 60181-2696

Thomas E. Cullerton, Village President
 Hosanna Kojmody, Village Clerk
 Rich Koehn, Jr., Village Manager

www.villapark.com Phone (630) 834-8500
 Fax (630) 834-9997
 TDD (630) 834-8500

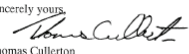
February 14, 2012



Gerald Hankerson
 ghankerson@cair.com

Dear Mr. Hankerson:

The Village of Villa Park would like to extend its support concerning the special theme Future without Bigotry through the organization CAIR Chicago. We wish you the best in the successful completion of the launch of this theme and are pleased that the Village can offer support to your organization.

Sincerely yours,

 Thomas Cullerton
 Village of Villa Park
 Village President

City of Hickory Hills
 8652 WEST 95th STREET
 HICKORY HILLS, ILLINOIS 60457
 PHONE 708 598 4800 • FAX (708) 430-6245

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
 MIKE HOWLEY

CITY HALL
 708 430 4211

January 27, 2012

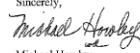
Ahmed M. Rehab, Executive Director
 Council on American-Islamic Relations
 28 E. Jackson Blvd., Suite 1700
 Chicago, IL 60604

Re: Congratulations

Dear Mr. Rehab:

It is with great pleasure that I offer my congratulations for the hard work and accomplishments of CAIR. Your fine organization continually reminds us all of the virtues, values and mutual respect that helped build this great nation.

As Mayor of Hickory Hills, I wish CAIR continued success and hope that your 8th Annual Banquet is bigger and better than ever.

Sincerely,

 Michael Howley
 Mayor
 City of Hickory Hills
 mh@cd

LETTERS OF RECOGNITION



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
VILLAGE OF OAK BROOK

GOPAL G. LALMALANI M.D., MBA
PRESIDENT

January 26, 2012

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



Dear Mr. Rehab:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the residents of the Village of Oak Brook, it is my pleasure to extend a hearty welcome to the members of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), Chicago Chapter.

Your 8th Annual Banquet, themed "A Future without Bigotry", speaks to the vision of the United States constitution as well as complementary laws and values, guaranteeing equality and respect for all. I commend CAIR-Chicago for their unending commitment to Muslim-American in helping to ensure civil rights and ending discriminatory practices throughout the state.

We are pleased that you have chosen to return to the Oak Brook area for your annual banquet. We hope you have an enjoyable event and that you will have an opportunity to sample the many scenic, historical, culinary, sporting and shopping attractions that Oak Brook has to offer.

Sincerely,

Gopal G. Lalmalani, MD., MBA.
Village President



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
City of Des Plaines

1420 Myer Street
Des Plaines, Illinois 60016
Telephone: 847/791-5301
Fax: 847/791-5378

Martin J. Moylan

January 20, 2012

Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)
Chicago Chapter
28 E. Jackson Blvd., Suite 1700
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Friends:

As Mayor of the City of Des Plaines, I take great pride in the efforts the Council of American Islamic Relations (CAIR) makes in promoting the vision of the U.S. Constitution guaranteeing equality and respect for all. As you celebrate on the occasion of your 8th Annual CAIR Banquet in April, 2012 know that your work to promote cultural understanding and tolerance is recognized by my community.

As our world continues to evolve, CAIR's commitment to a cause and your theme, "A Future without Bigotry," become all the more important to leaders everywhere. It is important for all of us, and our communities, to respect each others' values and work together. This is so important to our future and those we represent.

On behalf of the community of Des Plaines, I congratulate you on the CAIR Annual Banquet event and wish you the best for continued success.

Sincerely,

Martin J. Moylan
Mayor



VILLAGE OF LOMBARD
295 E. Wilson Ave.
Lombard, Illinois 60148-3126
Phone: 630-5790 Local 0330-620-8222
www.ci.lombard.il.us

January 30, 2012

Village President
William J. Mueller

Village Clerk
Heidi Johnson

Trustees:
Craig Alan Green, Dist. 1
Beth T. DiGregorio, Dist. 2
Anthony J. Wilson, Dist. 3
Peter Brown, Dist. 4
James A. Parnicki, Dist. 5
William "Bill" Warren, Dist. 6

Village Manager
David A. Halverson

"Our shared vision for Lombard is a community of excellence exemplified by its citizens working together with respect and business acumen to a distinctive sense of spirit and an unending quality of life."

"The Mission of the Village of Lombard is to make superior and responsive governmental services to the people of Lombard."

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

Greetings,

As Lombard Village President, I extend greetings and best wishes to all attending the 8th Annual Banquet of CAIR-Chicago to be held on March 3rd.

As you gather to discuss this year's theme, "A Future without Bigotry" the members of CAIR will continue to strive for mutual understanding and trust and working together for the betterment of our nation.

Best wishes on another year of success in making our communities a better place for all residents to live and work.

With Lombard Pride...

William "Bill" J. Mueller
Village President

WJM:cb

chicago@mueller.com



Thank you for
your support!

Staff & Board

2011 Staff

Executive Director

Ahmed Rehab

Deputy Director

Sufyan Sohel

Civil Rights Director

Christina Abraham

Litigation Director

Kevin Vodak

Staff Attorney

Rabya Khan

Communication Coordinators

Amina Sharif

Lyndsey Stemm

Aymen Abdel Halim

Leena Saleh

Operations Coordinators

Hiba Hammadi

Mohamed Abdelati

Outreach Coordinator

Gerald Hankerson

Yaser Tabbara, Esq. - (Legal Counsel)

Mazen Kudaimi, MD - Chairman

(Safaa Zarzour, Esq. - Ex-Officio)

Prof. M. Cherif Bassiouni - Honorary Chair



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

28 E. Jackson Blvd
Suite 1700
Chicago IL, 60604

t: 312.212.1520

f: 312.212.1530

info@cairchicago.org

www.cairchicago.org



CAIR

CHICAGO

www.cairchicago.org

28 E. Jackson Blvd., Suite 1700

Chicago, IL 60604

312 • 212 • 1520