EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In only its fourth year since restructuring, CAIR-Chicago has continued its impressive growth from a one-man operation into a fully-fledged institution, and of that we are proud. The organization, with a process-oriented infrastructure developed to corporate standard and powered by a talented and dedicated staff of 12 professionals, today plays a leading role in the Chicago area Muslim community’s civil rights and public relations spheres.

We present you this year’s Annual Report as a synopsis of CAIR-Chicago’s progress in 2007. The year 2007 witnessed the hiring of some exceptional talent. Reem Rahman, fresh from the University of Illinois, joined as communications coordinator. Azam Azeem, relentless community activist, joined as operations coordinator. Tricia Kemling, passionate advocate for justice, came on board as staff attorney, while Gerlad Hankerson, a proven bridge-builder, joined as outreach coordinator. Christina Abraham was promoted to Civil Rights Director in recognition of the crucial role she has played in developing her department, while Dina Rehab also received a promotion for playing the same role in the outreach department.

2007 also confirmed the phenomenon of the CAIR-Chicago “super intern,” with more interns voluntarily choosing to stay on longer than one semester and who function with the productivity of part-time staff.

In 2007, CAIR-Chicago received a whopping 391 new civil rights complaints. Cases ranged from employment discrimination and citizenship delay to prison abuse and hate crimes. The Civil Rights Department added more volunteer attorneys and took on some high profile cases; it also welcomed its first prestigious PILI fellow, Tawfiq Ali, from Harvard University. In addition to defense and advocacy work, the Civil Rights Department continued to implement a proactive, forward-looking agenda through its outreach to the government, media, and the community.

In 2007, CAIR-Chicago’s own Reem Rahman completed a fellowship at the Drum Major Institute, while Ahmed Rehab and board member Yaser Tabbara, received fellowships in President Eisenhower’s American Assembly.

2007 also witnessed the quiet debut of an ambitious new project, the Muslim Youth Leadership Symposium, or MYLS [www.cairchicago.org/myls]. MYLS, which looks to officially launch with a major event this spring, trained over 150 students in two pilot programs last summer and fall. The program, managed by Youth Coordinator Amir Siddiqui, looks to actively promote civic engagement via value-based projects dreamed up by students. It also looks to accentuate the importance of literature and the arts for the development of a healthy American Muslim community. The program received rave reviews from participants and sponsors alike.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2007, CAIR-Chicago’s Executive Director, Ahmed Rehab, joined the board of ICIRR, the Illinois Coalition of Immigrant and Refugee Rights, a statewide organizing powerhouse. Rehab immediately brought key communications and strategic contributions to the coalition, leading training seminars and participating at the Heartland Presidential Forum in Iowa. Sadiya Ahmed, the Government Affairs Department’s coordinator, expanded CAIR-Chicago’s role in various coalitions and helped bring more voter education to more communities in the area. 2007 saw the continuation of CAIR-Chicago’s global outreach, hosting more delegations from all corners of the world, showcasing to them our unique brand of Chicago activism.

In 2007, CAIR-Chicago continued its strong media presence both locally and nationally. In addition to omnipresence in the local audiovisual and print media, CAIR-Chicago officials gave several lauded performances on FOX’s Bill O’Reilly and CNN’s Glenn Beck, among others, and on talk radio coast to coast. Within 2007, CAIR-Chicago was featured, reported on, or quoted 187 times in local, national, and international media. That includes newspapers and magazines such as the Chicago Tribune, the Chicago Sun-Times, the Daily Herald, the New York Times, and the International Herald Tribune; local and national radio stations that include NPR and BBC Radio; and local and national television newscasts that include CBS, NBC, ABC, WGN, FOX, MSNBC, PBS, and CNN.

Lastly, 2007 saw the fortification and diversification of CAIR-Chicago’s board with impressive community leaders joining its ranks: Dr. Shahwar Syed, Kimberly Newkirk, Emaad Hamwi, and Khaled Taha.

For more updates on CAIR-Chicago and our current projects, please visit our new website: www.cairchicago.org. We hope that you will continue to support the services and projects of CAIR both locally and nationally.

Board of Directors
CAIR-Chicago
2008 Financial Activity

**INCOME**

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**EXPENSE:**

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<tr>
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Pie chart showing the distribution of income and expenses in 2008.
CAIR-Chicago is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization registered in Illinois. It is the local chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, the nation’s largest Muslim Civil Rights organization with 35 chapters in North America. CAIR was founded in 1994 and is headquartered in Washington, D.C.; the Chicago office, located in the heart of the city’s downtown business district, is currently in its 4th year of operation.

CAIR’s Vision
To be a leading advocate for justice and mutual understanding.

CAIR’s Mission
To enhance understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.

CAIR’s Core Values
1. CAIR supports free enterprise, freedom of religion and freedom of expression.
2. CAIR is committed to protecting the civil rights of all Americans, regardless of faith.
3. CAIR opposes domestic policies that limit civil rights, permit racial, ethnic or religious profiling, infringe on due process, or prevent Muslims and others from participating fully in American civic life.
4. CAIR supports domestic policies that promote civil rights, diversity and freedom of religion.
5. CAIR is a natural ally of groups, religious or secular, that advocate justice and human rights in America and around the world.
6. CAIR supports foreign policies that help create free and equitable trade, encourage human rights and promote representative government based on socio-economic justice.
7. CAIR believes the active practice of Islam strengthens the social and religious fabric of our nation.
8. CAIR condemns all acts of violence against civilians by any individual, group or state.
9. CAIR advocates dialogue between faith communities both in America and worldwide.
10. CAIR supports equal and complementary rights and responsibilities for men and women.
Civil Rights

The Civil Rights Department has experienced tremendous success and development in the past year. In 2007, 391 cases were reported to CAIR-Chicago, and the number of active cases has nearly doubled from 2006. The consistent high volume of cases seen by the Civil Rights Department illustrates the continuing need for Muslims to have access to legal representation when facing discrimination, as well as the growing trust in CAIR-Chicago to do the job. However, this also means that CAIR-Chicago must be able to expand its Civil Rights Department in order to meet the ever-growing needs of the Muslim community.

No. of Cases Reported in 2007 391

- Airline 3
- Child custody 1
- Criminal 12
- Employment 57
- General 32
- Government 240
- Prison 16
- Public Accommodation 15
- School 15

Total Active Cases from 2007 420

- Airline 5
- Child Custody 3
- Criminal 13
- Employment 64
- General 15
- Government 261
- Prison 32
- Public Accommodation 16
- School 11

Projects Launched in 2008

- FBI Project
  2006 has seen an increasing number of Muslims who report having been contacted by the FBI for interviews. CAIR-Chicago has represented Muslims who have been contacted by the FBI and remains in communication with the FBI regarding any possible misconduct by agents.

- Pegasus Project
  The Pegasus Project, which is sponsored by the Chicago Committee to Defend the Bill
Civil Rights (continued)

of Rights and Pegasus Players, seeks to educate high school students about constitutional rights. At the end of the term, students will turn what they learn into plays which will be submitted to the Chicago Young Playwrights Festival.

Ongoing Projects

• Free Campus Coalition
  o The Free Campus Coalition aims to protect and advocate for the right of faculty, staff and students to engage freely in intellectual exploration and discourse on American university and college campuses. It will provide a network of support to faculty, staff and students whose academic freedom is in peril. In 2006, the Coalition’s work focused on Professor Norman Finkelstein’s denial of tenure at DePaulUniversity.

• Coalition to Protect People’s Rights (CPPR)
  o The Coalition to Protect People’s Rights united in order to raise public awareness about the United States government’s violation of Mr. Muhammad Salah and Abdelhaleem Ashqar’s due process rights. The Coalition, which is comprised of civil rights groups, human rights groups, community-based organizations, and concerned individuals, advocates for the safeguarding of people’s rights protected by the United States’ Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Throughout the past year, the Civil Rights Department has worked to mobilize the community around the case by sponsoring events, fostering public discussion of the issues, and urging community members to attend the trial and write to the district court judge to show support for Muhammad Salah and Abdelhaleem Ashqar.

• Citizenship Delay Project
  o The Citizenship Delay Project has worked to end the lengthy delays in the citizenship process for Muslims applying for citizenship by political and legal means. Currently, 298 cases of citizenship delays have been reported. In 2006, CAIR-Chicago filed a class action law suit with the National Immigrant Justice Center and Competition Law Group. As a result of the class action and individual law suits filed on behalf of individuals delayed in obtaining citizenship, many who have been delayed were granted citizenship. However, the Civil Rights Department will have to expand if it is going to be able to meet the growing demand for legal representation in citizenship delays.

• Employment Discrimination Project
  o This project seeks to help Muslims facing religious discrimination at the workplace. Fifty-seven cases of employment discrimination were reported in 2007, many having been resolved positively through negotiations and mediations with employers. Additionally, several law suits have been filed on behalf of Muslims who experienced
Civil Rights (continued)

discrimination in the workplace.

• Prison Project
  o This project looks to secure the rights of Muslim inmates to practice their religion freely as well as to ensure that inmates are treated humanely. In the past, it sponsored the donation of Qurans to Muslim inmates and presented to state prison officials regarding the religious accommodation of Muslims. Throughout 2007, the project has been working to challenge policies affecting the rights and treatment of Muslim inmates.

• Police Misconduct Project
  o This project advocates and represents clients in cases of police misconduct. In 2007, CAIR-Illinois signed on in support of a report issued entitled The failure of Special Prosecutors Edward J. Egan and Robert D. Boyle to Fairly Investigate Police Torture in Chicago. The project has also represented individual clients who have experienced police misconduct.

• Travel Free Project
  o This project seeks to look into complaints of Muslims being detained upon re-entry to the country when traveling due to their names being put on a “watch list” by the Transportation and Security Administration (TSA). The project assists Muslims in going through the proper procedures for being safe-listed. Additionally, it also represents individuals who have experienced discrimination while traveling.

Civil Rights Outreach

The Civil Rights Department has sponsored and participated in events pertaining to the struggle for civil liberties for Muslims in America. The following are events that the Civil Rights Department participated in during the 2007 year.

• CAIR-Chicago Co-hosts Comprehensive Immigration Reform and Citizenship Delay Workshop

• CAIR-Chicago Staff Attorney Speaks on panel on Immigration Law and the effects of September 11 at Kirkland & Ellis, LLP.

• CAIR-Chicago Staff Attorney speaks at National Town Hall on Hate Crimes
Civil Rights (continued)

• DePaul Students Act to Protect Academic Freedom on Campus

• CAIR-Chicago Prison Project Coordinator Speaks at the Advisory Board Meeting of the Illinois Department of Corrections

• CAIR-Chicago Prison Project Coordinator Speaks on Religious Discrimination in Prisons

• CAIR-Chicago Civil Rights Coordinator Speaks on Panel at Columbia College

• CAIR-Chicago Civil Rights Coordinator Speaks at Islamic Foundation School on Malcolm X Day

• CAIR-Chicago Staff Attorney Presents at Depaul Legal Clinic

• CAIR-Chicago Legal Advisor Speaks at Wellesley College

• CAIR-Chicago Civil Rights Coordinator Participates in Teaching Constitution to Students

CAIR-Chicago continued a variety of proactive initiatives aimed at projecting a fair and accurate image of Islam and Muslims in the media. 2007 saw the rapid expansion into numerous new mediums designed to more effectively challenge the bias, bigotry, and prejudice in America’s public discourse on

Civil Rights Publications


Communications/Media
Communications/Media (continued)

Islam and Muslims. It was a year of firsts in many areas, not the least of which was the milestone launch of its redesigned website.

New Website and Newsletter

The Communications Department launched a new website and brand-new bi-weekly newsletter, showcasing sections better equipped to feature new and relevant content. Every section of the website has been designed to reflect the wide breadth of work by all CAIR-Chicago departments, and with the added features, content can be easily e-mailed, printed, or shared at a click. Whether providing incident report forms, announcing the latest media successes or showcasing the latest voter education guides, the improved functionality of the new website amplifies CAIR-Chicago’s ability to serve the Chicagoland community.

CAIR-Chicago in the News

2007 was a busy year for the Communication Department. CAIR-Chicago was featured, quoted or reported on over 187 times locally, nationally, and globally. These included over 55 times in print media, 25 times on broadcast news (TV) and 13 times on radio, in addition to numerous references online.

News agencies included:


- Magazines: Higher Education Chronicles, The Economist


Media Monitoring

CAIR-Chicago continued to monitor the local media on a daily basis with the purpose of reinforcing positive and accurate coverage of Muslims and Islam, and challenging simplistic, inaccurate, or biased reports. Numerous articles, opinions and commentary pieces were written by CAIR-Chicago and printed in mainstream press and credible online sources. Bigoted positions against Muslims were challenged by writers coordinated through the Communications Department.
CAIR-Chicago led press conferences and issues press releases and media advisories in order to ensure that Muslim perspectives on pressing issues and current events were represented in the mainstream media. CAIR-Chicago provided feedback to major local Chicago newspaper editors and staff on their coverage of Islam and Muslims.

**New Media & Multimedia**

The Communications Department introduced new ways of producing and presenting the latest in new media forms including the latest in audio, video, graphics, web design, flash, and blogs.

**Multimedia Studio**

The Communications Department established a studio to capture audio and video on site and make it easily available for the community’s benefit through webcasting.

**Reports and Analysis**

Northwest Indiana Times, Die Zeit (Germany), Thueringer Allgemeine (Germany), and the International Herald Tribune (France) among others.
Communications/Media
(continued)

Training

The Communications Department hosted and led numerous lectures and workshops for students, mosques, and organizations on how to be more effective media activists and community spokespersons. These included a messaging workshop to a room full of Chicago activists hosted by the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights and to numerous student leaders gathered for the New Jersey Muslim Youth Leadership Program at Princeton, NJ.

Government Relations

Each year, CAIR engages the Chicagoland Muslim community in civic engagement programs while cultivating and strengthening already existing relationships with elected officials on the federal, state, and local levels. Followed by last year’s successful publication of the CAIR-Chicago Civic Education Guide, this year the Government Affairs department further developed educational materials for distribution to the Muslim community for the 2008 presidential election. We worked with the national office and other CAIR chapters to compile a presidential candidates’ survey for distribution in our local community.

During the year, as we prepared for the presidential election, working with local grassroots organizations around the area to establish a comprehensive curriculum and program for the community, we created new ways to effectively keep the Muslim community abreast of political developments. The Government Affairs Department’s volunteers and interns continue to work on researching national legislation, while incorporating information into databases about elected officials and their positions on issues that are of particular importance to the Muslim community.

Civic Engagement and Community Outreach

In 2007, the department held workshops and
community forums on issues ranging from the Muslim community’s involvement in politics to comprehensive immigration reform updates. CAIR-Chicago conducted several trainings on how to effectively be involved in grassroots politics. We continued on the electoral work from 2005 and held voter registration drives to register new citizens and previous unregistered voters to vote in the upcoming election. We continued building our voter information database to be able to get a more accurate number of registered Muslims voters in Illinois. The following are some of the events the Government Affairs Department held or participated in over the last year:

• Civic Engagement Workshop at Northwestern University
• Panel Discussion on “Hearing from the Allies in the Social Justice Movement” in Washington DC
• Immigration Reform Briefing and Community Meeting at the Mosque Foundation
• Third Congressional District Unity Summit for Comprehensive Immigration
• ReformCommunity Civic Engagement and Comprehensive Immigration Reform Workshop at the Indo-American Center
• Community Workshop: Reclaiming the People’s Voice in American Politics
• Comprehensive Immigration Reform and Naturalization Delay Workshop in the Southwest Suburbs

Coalition Building

CAIR-Chicago continued to forge new relationships with diverse organizations around the Chicagoland area as well as maintaining already existing relationships. We worked with immigrant rights organizations to advocate for comprehensive immigration reform. We regularly consulted with organizations such as the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICCIR) on the Muslim community’s concerns on the current immigration system.

We attended the national South Asian American Leaders of Tomorrow (SAALT) where we established new relationships with South Asian Organizations in the Chicagoland area. CAIR-Chicago was invited to speak on a panel
Government Relations (continued)

about our work in the area of Muslim civil rights. Coming out of the summit, CAIR-Chicago became a lead organization in the establishment of a new coalition, the South Asian Network (SAN) for the Chicagoland area, meeting quarterly to bring organizations that serve a part of the South Asian community together.

CAIR-Chicago worked with other community organizations in the third congressional district to mobilize around immigration reform, demanding answers from Congressman Dan Lipinski. We regularly sent diverse delegations to the Congressman’s office, demanding a clarification on his views on immigration reform, held a community meeting, attended by over 1,000 community members, and finally took part in a march to Congressman Lipinski’s office.

The Government Affairs took part in regular strategy meetings with other community and grassroots organizations to establish core principles on comprehensive immigration reform. We pushed hard for legislative reform on naturalization delay to be adapted as part of a national immigration reform agenda. We worked with partner organizations to push for dialogue about the background checks within their communities.

Relationship Building with Elected Officials

We met with upper level staff members from national congressional offices to discuss the Muslim community’s concerns on comprehensive immigration reform and CAIR-Chicago’s solution to delays applicants face when applying for naturalization. This year, as in the past, the Government Affairs department also met with candidates running for federal and state offices to discuss the concerns of the Muslim community.

As a 501(3), we worked with other non-partisan organizations to hold a candidates’ forum in the third congressional district, inviting all major party candidates to address the local community and asked questions about their positions on issues that concern the immigrant and/or the Muslim community.

CAIR engaged in limited lobbying on issues such as comprehensive immigration reform earlier this year, demanding a realistic solution to our current broken immigration system. Later in the year, we began engaging in talks with elected officials and their staff about legislative solutions to eliminate the backlog on naturalization delay.

CAIR-Chicago received 21 congratulatory letters of support from government officials which has since been incorporated in our distribution literature. Members of Congress like Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, Congressman Danny Davis, law enforcement (CPD, CAPS, and FBI), Governor Rod Blagojevich, mayors of various cities including...
Government Relations
(continued)

Mayor Richard Daley, and state and local officials praised CAIR-Chicago for its hard work over the years.

Outreach

This year witnessed the launch of an exciting new program geared towards unleashing the potent skills and ideas of Muslim youth into projects that bring about constructive change. The Muslim Youth Leadership Symposium’s (MYLS) core mission is to provide American Muslim youth with a proactive agenda for positive activism; empower them to guide their communities from the margin to the mainstream; and foster a healthy American Muslim identity that fits comfortably within pluralistic American society while true to its faith values. It encourages our youth to explore how Muslims can become model citizens that help make America a better place for all Americans, regardless of race or creed.

The Outreach Department held the first Muslim Youth Leadership Symposium as a pilot project, hosting over 30 students from local Islamic high schools, predominantly from the Universal School in Bridgeview. The day-long workshops covered a variety of topics such as Muslim American Self-Definition, Knowing Your Rights at School and the Workplace, Muslim American Activism as well as strategizing concrete ways to transform ideas into action. The Symposium was a remarkable success, opening the doors to an ambitious second event scheduled to take place in April 2008.

The MYLS Initiative, a year-long training designed to help prepare students for the Annual Muslim Youth Leadership Symposium, was also initiated to facilitate the implementation of student-based projects. A partnership between CAIR-Chicago and local Islamic schools was established where the MYLS initiative serves as a school club with several subcommittees. Committees serve student interests and include areas such as philanthropy and communications. CAIR-Chicago provides support and training to club members via workshops and regular meetings with students. Through this partnership, CAIR-Chicago hopes to turn student generated ideas into measurable results.

Visit www.cairchicago.org/myls for more information on the MYLS Initiative.
Participant Testimonials:

“MYLS motivated me to become more involved in my community and not only give back to the Muslims in the community, but to people of other religions as well. The speakers were terrific.” Noor Alawad

“The individual speeches were wonderfully refreshing. It really made me realize that there are many venues available for me to work towards improving our quality of life.” Nuha Mulk

“I think the symposium was very effective and taught me so many lessons that I can implement in my life. My favorite part was the 1st session about self-definition. It answered so many questions I’ve had for years. I can’t wait to share them with my family and friends.” Asma Hammadi

CAIR-Chicago also participated in various national Muslim youth leadership trainings such as those held in Cincinnati, Ohio and Sacramento, California.

Interfaith

The Outreach department held several lectures and workshops to address common misconceptions on Islam and Muslims. CAIR-Chicago staff discussed issues such as the headscarf (hijab), fundamental laws of Islam, and the history of Islam at churches, libraries, community centers as well as at Institutions such as the Art Institute of Chicago. Various sessions were also held nationally in states such as California, North Carolina, and Wisconsin.

Muslims Care

As part of Muslims Care (www.muslimscare.org), a national campaign promoting community service, CAIR-Chicago organized several community service events throughout the year 2007. Events included blood drives, community food drives, and addressing the needs of children of domestic violence homes.

University / Academia

CAIR-Chicago delivered several speeches at various universities in the United States including Benedictine University, Loyola University, the University of Chicago, the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee and the Claremont Colleges California.

Ramadan Outreach

CAIR-Chicago was in full-swing with its outreach efforts to the community in Ramadan 2007. CAIR-Chicago coordinated presentations on its services and updates on its progress.
during the Taraweeh (night prayer) gatherings in 15 mosques in the Greater Chicagoland area.

Internship/Externship Program
CAIR-Chicago has partnered with several universities and law schools establishing a unique and highly competitive for-credit and not-for-credit internship/externship program:

Internship programs are available through:
- Brown University
- College of DuPage
- Columbia College
- DePaul University
- Loyola University
- Moraine Valley Community College
- Northeastern Illinois University
- Northern Illinois University
- Northwestern University
- Robert Morris College
- Roosevelt University
- University of Chicago
- University of Illinois at Chicago

Externship programs are available through:
- Chicago-Kent College of Law
- DePaul College of Law
- Florida State University College of Law
- Indiana University School of Law
- John Marshall Law School
- Northwestern University School of Law
- Rutgers School of Law
- UCLA School of Law
- University of Chicago Law School

CAIR-Chicago hosted a total of 65 Interns/Externs in the year 2007, and currently has a database of over 100 active volunteers.

Friday Sermons (Khutbahs)
CAIR-Chicago delivers weekly Khutbahs at some of Chicago’s largest Mosques in an effort to promote key civic and humanitarian ideals fostered in Islam’s teachings, and to bridge the mosque audience with the field work that CAIR-Chicago administers. This year, CAIR-Chicago also delivered sermons on a national level.

International Outreach
CAIR-Chicago hosted several international delegations of Muslim scholars and activists from Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Saudi Arabia, Bulgaria, Jordan as well as a European delegation and a Middle Eastern Women’s delegation.
Board of Directors

Safaa Zarzour, Esq. – President
Mazen Kudaimi, MD – Vice-President
Yaser Tabbara, Esq. – Secretary
Hina Sodha, Esq. – Treasurer
Khaled Taha
Emaad Hamwi
Shahwar Syed, MD
Kimberly Newkirk
Ahmed Rehab
Alif Muhammad

Staff

Ahmed Rehab – Executive Director
Christina Abraham – Civil Rights Director
Dina Rehab – Senior Outreach Coordinator
Reem Rahman – Communications Coordinator
Sadiya Ahmed – Governmental Affairs Coordinator
Azam Azeem – Operations Coordinator
Veronica Zapata – Cultural Sensitivity Speaker
Islaam Rahim – Administrative Assistant
Shahzeen Karim – Governmental Affairs Coordinator
Gerald Hankerson – Outreach Coordinator
Amir Siddiqui – Youth Coordinator
Tricia Kemling – Staff attorney
RECOGNITIONS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ROD R. BLAGGENDORF
GOVERNOR

February 23, 2008

GREETINGS

As Governor of the State of Illinois, I am pleased to welcome everyone gathered for the 4th Annual Banquet of the Council on American Islamic Relations – Chicago.

I want to thank 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. You also help empower those you serve by giving them a voice in their communities and making a genuine difference in our increasingly interconnected global society. I commend everyone in attendance for your dedication to advancing the wellbeing of Muslims throughout Illinois and across the country, and I urge you to use this occasion to make plans for the future that will build on your past success.

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

Sincerely,

Rod R. Blagojevich
Governor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

RICHARD M. DALY
MAYOR

February 23, 2008

GREETINGS

As Mayor and on behalf of the City of Chicago, I extend my warmest greetings to all those gathered for the Council on American-Islamic Relations – Chicago Chapter’s iCAIR-Chicago Fourth Annual Banquet.

With a theme of American Muslims: Defining Ourselves, tonight’s event highlights CAIR-Chicago’s commitment to ensuring civil rights, diversity and freedom of religion for all of our residents. CAIR-Chicago works to present a balanced and accurate media portrayal of Islam and Muslims and makes our city a better place to live, work and raise families.

Chicago is the proud home of a strong Muslim American community that contributes greatly to the cultural, economic and social development of our city. I commend CAIR-Chicago for its efforts to promote cultural understanding and religious tolerance and offer my best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable event and much future success.

Sincerely,

Richard M. Daley
Mayor
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
Jesse White + Secretary of State

January 4, 2008

Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)
Chicago Chapter
28 East Jackson Boulevard
Suite 1410
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Friends:

As Illinois Secretary of State, it is indeed an honor to welcome you to CAIR – Chicago’s 4th Annual Banquet. I am happy to extend my best wishes and warmest greetings to all who have gathered to partake in this noteworthy event.

I applaud and commend the Council on American-Islamic Relations for its stellar efforts and commitment in helping to ensure justice, civil rights, and the ending of discriminatory practices throughout the communities you dutifully serve. Your dedication embodies the very essence of our society’s steady pursuit of social, racial and economic equality for all. Through the resilience of organizations such as yours, the message of peace, multiculturalism, equal opportunity and inclusion continues to have a meaningful and positive effect on our nation.

Again, welcome to this memorable and inspirational banquet. I know that you will continue to find generous support for your humanitarian and democratic endeavors, which advance the ideals of peace and equality.

Sincerely,

Jesse White
Secretary of State

Federal Bureau of Investigation
2311 West Roosevelt Road
Chicago, IL 60604
February 14, 2008

Mr. Ahmed M. Rehab
Executive Director
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) – Illinois Chapter
28 East Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1410
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Rehab,

I would like to congratulate the members of the Chicago Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations on the event of your 4th Annual Banquet. I also like to thank you for the opportunity to join you in your celebration.

The national security of the United States and the protection of the civil rights of all Americans are high FBI priorities. In order to effectively protect our citizens, our cities and even undocumented people who live and work in our communities, we need the support, trust and cooperation of the American people. I know you have a similar view and goal to protect the safety and security of every individual in our country. You demonstrated strong commitment to that goal by participating in the FBI Citizens’ Academy and using that experience to help demystify the FBI to others. I don’t think I could express our common goal better than you did after your Citizens’ Academy graduation, when you stated in a press release, “Maintaining safe communities cannot be the work of the FBI and the police alone; we, the citizens, have a role to play in keeping our streets safe by being vigilant and reporting suspicious activity.”

Your dedication to open and honest communication and understanding, even in disagreement, has embodied the principles of a civil and democratic society and brings credit to your leadership. For that you have the thanks and gratitude of all of the men and women of the Chicago FBI.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Broussard
Special Agent in Charge
February 23, 2008

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to send warm greetings to those gathered at the annual banquet of the Council on American-Islamic Relations Chicago Chapter.

CAIR-Chicago has provided support to one of the largest Muslim populations in the United States, including many of my own constituents, by championing civil rights and advocating on behalf of victims of discrimination and hate crimes.

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

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress
February 23, 2008

Ms. Sadiya Ahmed
Governmental Relations Coordinator
CAIR-CHICAGO
28 East Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1410
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Ms. Ahmed:

I would like to congratulate the Chicago chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations on its 4th Annual event at the Westin O’Hare in Rosemont, Illinois.

At a time when the American-Muslim community faces countless hurdles, CAIR-Chicago has stood up to effectively defend civil rights while proactively advocating for the respect of our constitutional guarantees. The everyday efforts of CAIR-Chicago should serve as a beacon of hope for all Americans when it comes to preserving the basic rights and liberties that America was founded upon.

Once again, congratulations and please send my best wishes to every person at the event.

Sincerely,

Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.
Member of Congress
JLJjr. PPG

January 17, 2008

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 great and welcome attendees at the CAIR-Chicago thirteenth annual conference, Thursday, January 23rd, 2008. Illinois has one of the largest Muslim populations in the United States and I trust that this year’s event, like events of the past three years, will be a great success.

The theme of this year’s event: American Muslims: Defining Ourselves 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 and our commitment to those rights and responsibilities set down in our constitution, and reaffirmed and reaffirmed from time to time so as to encompass every American. These are the true core of our democracy and these principles have been ratified at great cost so many times over our history.

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

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

Sincerely,

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress
RECOGNITIONS

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

February 23, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Rehab:

Greetings to you and everyone attending the Fourth Annual banquet for the Chicago Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR). The selected theme, “American Muslims: Defining Ourselves,” resonates with me as a reminder that self-definition is integral to self-determination and progressive action.

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

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

Sincerely,

The Honorable Dorothy Brown
Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County

Maria Pappas
Cook County Treasurer

February 23, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Rehab:

I am pleased to offer my greetings to the Council on American-Islamic Relations, Chicago Chapter, as it presents its 4th Annual Fundraising Banquet.

Your theme of “America’s Muslims: Defining Ourselves” is appropriate, given your commitment to involve Muslims in civic affairs.

The number of Islamic chapters involved with CAIR promises success for your work, and it is gratifying that you work with and for Muslims and non-Muslims.

My own commitment to diversity is shown on cookcountytreasurer.com, where languages of various Muslim communities have information important to owners of homes and businesses.

Best wishes to all attending this event with family and friends old and new.

Sincerely,

Maria Pappas
Cook County Treasurer

www.cookcountytreasurer.org
RECOGNITIONS

Carole A. Pankau
STATE SENATOR - 23rd DISTRICT

January 9, 2008
CAIR-CHICAGO
28 E. Jackson Blvd.
Suite 1410
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Friends,

I am writing to once again congratulate you on all your successes. We all owe you a debt of gratitude, not just the American-Islamic community in Chicago. Your record of advocating on behalf of local Muslims continues to be truly extraordinary!

Your motto is “Ignorance is the Enemy”. Every day your organization upholds this mantra. Whether it be working with other organizations such as JCUA (The Jewish Council on Urban Affairs), or providing employment and volunteering opportunities to the people of Chicago, you provide your community with invaluable resources, and instill a great sense of pride. Through the efforts of organizations such as CAIR-Chicago, the battle against ignorance will not be lost.

I apologize that I am unable attend your 4th Annual Banquet. However, I wish you the best with this event, and I appreciate your invitation. If I can ever be of service, please don’t hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at 630-582-0390.

Sincerely,

Carole Pankau
State Senator – 23rd District

Christine Radogno
DEPUTY SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER - 41st DISTRICT

To My Friends at CAIR

I would like to congratulate the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)-Chicago on the organization’s annual event, celebrating yet another successful year of your commitment to serving the needs of the Chicago Muslim population.

The organization’s successful advocacy work continues to affect the lives of thousands of Illinois residents. Your outstanding work on voter outreach programs is commendable.

I encourage the dedicated men and women on the Council of American Islamic Relations to carry on with their commitment to making this state and nation a better place to live. CAIR’s ongoing effort to engage Muslim Americans in the political process, while fighting against persecution and injustice, is deserving of the most sincere respect and accolades.

I look forward to working with CAIR to help accomplish their mission and goal.

Sincerely,

Christine Radogno
Senator 41st District
Illinois State Senate
RECOGNITIONS

January 29, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Rehab,

Thank you for your invitation to attend the 4th Annual CAIR-Chicago Banquet on Saturday, February 23rd, 2008. I am honored to be included and extend my warm greetings to all the attendees.

I commend the Chicago chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations for its exceptional work to educate the community and encourage civic engagement and participation. CAIR-Chicago’s success in providing outstanding service to one of the largest Muslim populations in the United States is remarkable. As Chicago City Clerk, I support CAIR-Chicago’s efforts to serve the needs of our community.

I extend my best wishes for the 4th Annual CAIR-Chicago Banquet and for continued success.

Sincerely,

Miguel del Valle
Chicago City Clerk

Mary E. Flowers

January 16, 2008

Ahmed M. Rehab
Executive Director
CAIR-Chicago
28 E. Jackson Blvd., Suite 1410
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Mr. Rehab:

It is with great pleasure that I write this congratulatory letter of support for the Council on American-Islamic Relations-Chicago Chapter (CAIR-Chicago). The Muslim population is integral and vital to the growth and development of our city and CAIR-Chicago has had and continues to have a tremendous impact on the quality of life of our Muslim citizens.

CAIR-Chicago’s contributions in support and pursuit of Muslim civil rights are prominent, far-reaching and well-publicized in local, national, and international print media, as well as local and national radio and newscasts. We are proud to have your affiliation.

The theme of this year’s 2008 event, “American Muslims: Defining Ourselves,” is in keeping with the ever-evolving strides of CAIR-Chicago in advocating and mandating the inclusion of Muslims in all areas of life germane to the betterment of American society.

Thank you CAIR-Chicago for all that you do. The Chicago area is fortunate to have your organization in our midst and joining in the struggle for equality for all.

Keep up the great work!

Sincerely,

Mary E. Flowers
State Representative 31st District
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
VILLAGE OF HARWOOD HEIGHTS

January 3, 2008

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

On behalf of the Village of Harwood Heights, I wish to extend warm wishes and greetings to everyone gathered together to celebrate “American Muslims: Defining Ourselves” and to the entire CAIR-Chicago Organization.

It is my sincere pleasure to join you and your colleagues in celebrating Muslims in American civic participation. In protecting constitutional and human rights, CAIR-Chicago promotes tolerance and inspires all of us to form a strong and safe community bond.

Although Harwood Heights is a small town separate from Chicago, I believe that a real community has no borders. We are all friends and neighbors. We are all working for a greater understanding and treatment of each other, for peace and for justice to all. What greater way to define ourselves than to be civic-minded and participate in local, state and national government.

My wish is that each of you, my friends, is continued progress in all your very important work.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Margaret Fuller
Village President
Village of Harwood Heights

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
GERALD R. BENNETT
Mayor

January 23, 2008

Mr. Ahmed M. Rehab
Executive Director
Council on American-Islamic Relations
28 East Jackson Blvd., Suite 1410
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Rehab,

As Mayor of the City of Palos Hills I send warm greetings to you and all those attending the 4th Annual Banquet of the Chicago Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-Chicago).

Over the past four years, CAIR-Chicago has accomplished an outstanding record of service in educating and communicating the values and cultures of the American Muslim community. Your efforts to engage and become part of the political process, has resulted in greater understanding and recognition by many political leaders in the Metropolitan Chicago area.

As Mayor of my City, with many Arab and Muslim American citizens, and with mayors throughout the metropolitan Chicago area, we look forward to working with you to continue the efforts of embracing diversity in our community.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Gerald R. Bennett
Mayor
City of Palos Hills
RECOGNITIONS

VILLAGE OF ROSEMONT

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the people and businesses in the Village of Rosemont, Illinois, welcome to our village and to a successful Fourth Annual Banquet of CAIR-Chicago on Saturday, February 23, at the Westin Hotel O’Hare.

We admire your education quest. Learning is the pathway to understanding; understanding is the gateway to communication and communication unlocks the door to peace.

As you know, Rosemont is an open door, welcoming all faiths and non-faiths, believers and non-believers, to meet and greet each other in the Donald E. Stephens Convention and Conference Center, to explore the facilities and in non-municipal meeting venues.

Just as your organization has been growing rapidly, Rosemont has been developing new facilities, attracting renowned restaurants, world-class hotels, premier attractions and more. The recently completed, 18-screen, luxury Movieplex megaplex has opened in Rosemont’s entertainment district (just east of River Road and Breyer’s Way). We hope that while you are here, you may have time to take in a show, or sample some of the fine cuisine offered in our restaurants. We are confident that you will experience excellent service and find the ambience warm and inviting.

We thank you and wish you a successful banquet.

Best wishes,

[Signature]

Mayor

TOMASO M. MALARA

February 11, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Rehab:

On behalf of the City Council and the residents of Oakbrook Terrace, it is my pleasure to congratulate CAIR-Chicago on its 4th Annual Banquet, American Muslims: Defining Ourselves.

In today’s world we are faced with the harsh realities that not all people are accepted, included, or treated fairly. CAIR-Chicago is to be applauded for their work in helping to ensure that the quality of a better life is experienced by all citizens.

The message of peace, equal opportunity and inclusion is a strong one and should be supported and encouraged by everyone.

My congratulations and best wishes for a most successful event.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Thomas S. Manika
Mayor
CONTACT

Address

CAIR-Chicago
28 East Jackson Blvd, Suite 1410
Chicago, IL 60604

Telephone / Facsimile

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Board Chairman: president@cairchicago.org