EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In just two short years of operation, and with the grace of God, CAIR-Chicago, the Midwest chapter of the nation’s largest Muslim Civil Rights organization, has blossomed from a staff of one person into a fully-fledged civil rights and public relations firm.

Today, CAIR-Chicago is powered by a talented staff of 10 professional activists (7 full-time and 3 part-time) wholly dedicated to defending our civil liberties, fighting bigotry, and promoting tolerance & justice.

We present to you this year’s Annual Report as a synopsis of CAIR-Chicago’s progress in 2006.

The year 2006 saw a change in the Executive Director position and the addition of four new staff members (including the new position of staff attorney); it also saw the number of interns and volunteers increase by 14% from 2005.

In 2006, CAIR-Chicago processed 412 civil rights complaints, almost double the amount from the previous year for the second time in a row. Cases ranged from employment discrimination and citizenship delay to prison abuse and hate crimes. The department added two more new projects: the Free Campus Coalition, and the Coalition to Protect People’s Rights.

In addition to defense and advocacy work, the Civil Rights department continued to implement a proactive, forward-looking agenda through outreach to the government, media, and the community.

In coordination with strategic partners, the Government Affairs Department successfully launched our political organizing flagship known as Project O, registering more than 1,000 new Muslim voters and educating the community on civic engagement and participation. As a result, voter registration increased by 80 percent and voter turnout by 50 percent in an area that has had historically low numbers. CAIR-Chicago also debuted and distributed the CAIR-Chicago 2006 Voter Education Guide, providing voters with the information necessary to make informed electoral decisions.

2006 also saw our outreach efforts go global. CAIR-Chicago hosted half a dozen international delegations from around the world, while members of our staff presented before audiences in England, Denmark, Turkey, and Egypt.
CAIR-Chicago understands the importance of mainstream media in impacting public perceptions about Islam and Muslims. In 2006, CAIR-Chicago was featured, reported on, or quoted over 150 times in local, national, and international newspapers and magazines that include the Chicago Tribune, the Chicago Sun-Times, the Daily Herald, the Economist, the International Herald Tribune, and Crain’s Business; over 30 times in local and national radio stations that include NPR and BBC Radio; and over 60 times in local and national television newscasts that include CBS, NBC, ABC, WGN, FOX, MSNBC, PBS, and BBC World.

For more information on CAIR-Chicago and our current projects, please visit: http://www.cairchicago.org. We hope that you will continue to support the services and projects of CAIR both locally and nationally.
### 2006 FINANCIAL ACTIVITY

#### INCOME

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#### EXPENSE

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#### Percentage of Total Expense

- Salaries / Payroll Expense: 61%
- Bank / Credit Card Charges: 0.32%
- Employee Benefits: 4%
- Printing / Postage: 1%
- Events / Projects: 25%
- Accounting / Legal Services: 1%
- Repairs / Maintenance / Supplies: 2%
- Office Lease & Utilities: 5%
- Other: 1%
ABOUT US

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 over 30 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 3rd 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.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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Civil Rights

For the second year in a row, our case totals have nearly doubled from the previous year. In 2006, 412 cases were reported to the Civil Rights Department. This phenomenon illustrates the growing need for Muslims to have ready access to legal representation and advocacy in order to protect their civil rights. It is also a clear indicator of the urgency that our Civil Rights Department faces to expand its services as per the community’s demand.

Number of Cases Reported in 2006 412

- Airline 2
- Government 262
- Child Custody 6
- Prison 18
- Criminal 13
- Public Accommodation 11
- Employment 57
- School 15
- General 28

Total Active Cases from 2006 220

- Airline 0
- Government 146
- Child Custody 1
- Prison 16
- Criminal 7
- Public Accommodation 8
- Employment 31
- School 4
- General 7
Civil Rights (continued)

Projects Launched in 2006

• 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. The coalition was founded when a local university adjunct professor was not re-hired after entertaining questions about Zionism in a World Religions class. This project is coordinated by Attorney Rima Kapitan.

• Coalition to Protect People’s Rights
  o The Coalition to Protect People’s Rights (CPPR), was formed in order to raise public awareness about the United States government’s violation of Mr. Muhammad Salah’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 issue by sponsoring events, fostering public discussion on the case, and urging community members to attend the trial. (A verdict was recently delivered with Salah being found not guilty of terrorism-related charges.)

Ongoing Projects

• Citizenship Delay Project
  o This project received 146 cases in the year 2006. The Citizenship Delay Project aims, by political and legal means, to end the lengthy delays in the citizenship process for Muslims applying for citizenship. 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 several individual law suits filed on behalf of individuals delayed in obtaining citizenship, many who have been delayed were granted citizenship. This project is led by Heena Musabji, Staff Attorney.
Civil Rights (continued)

• Employment Discrimination Project
  o This project seeks to help Muslims facing religious discrimination in the workplace. 57 cases of employment discrimination were reported in 2006, many resolved positively through negotiations and mediations with employers. This project is coordinated by Amy Chiang and overseen by Maaria Mozaffar, Legal Advisor.

• 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. This project is coordinated by Ausaf Farooqi.

• Police Misconduct Project
  o This project advocates and represents clients in cases of police misconduct. In 2006, 14 cases of police misconduct were reported to the Civil Rights Department. This project is coordinated by Ahsan Latif and overseen by Civil Rights Coordinator Christina Abraham and Attorney Rima Kapitan.

• 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). In 2006, 11 such cases were received by the project.

Civil Rights Outreach

The Civil Rights Department has sponsored and participated in events pertaining to the struggle for civil liberties by Muslims in America. The following is a selection of events that the Civil Rights Department held during the 2006 year.

• An Informational Evening on Civil Liberties and Rights
• Town Hall Meeting on USA PATRIOT Act in Highland Park
• Citizenship Delay Workshop at Islamic Society of Northwest Suburbs
• Citizenship Delay Workshop at Mosque Foundation
• Citizenship Delay: Hear About the Issue from Government Representatives
• A Muslim Woman’s Guide to Her Civil Rights
• Increased Security: Necessity or Excuse?
• International Day to Shut Down Guantanamo
• The Current Threat to Civil Liberties
CAIR-Chicago also attended quarterly government (DHS/FBI/CBP/ICE/UCIS) roundtable discussions meant to increase dialogue and understanding between members of the Muslim community and the government agencies that serve them.

CAIR-Chicago helped facilitate a retreat in Peoria, IL that brought together FBI leadership from the Springfield office and Muslim leadership from around Illinois. The productive daylong program helped participants diffuse stigma, exchange concerns, and increase mutual understanding.

**Communications/Media**

CAIR has continued its proactive work in challenging Media outlets and individuals who misrepresent or defame Islam and Muslims. To present accurate information about Islam and Muslims to the American public, we regularly provide interviews to television, radio and newspapers, while engaging in letter writing and opinion editorials, and serving as a resource for the media on issues of interest to the American Muslim community.

This year, one of the biggest challenges was mobilizing the Muslim community in response to the negative caricatures of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) depicted in a Danish publication. CAIR launched a public relations campaign to not only inform the media that printing the cartoons offended Muslims worldwide and represented a lack of integrity on the media's part but also began educating the American public by giving out free books and DVDs on the Prophet.

**Some of CAIR-Chicago's 2006 Communications Department Highlights include:**

- Met with local newspaper editors to
discuss coverage of hot button issues including: Islamophobia, the Iraq war, terrorism, the Danish cartoon controversy, and the Middle East conflict

• Called timely press conferences on breaking news affecting Chicago’s Muslim community

• Delivered lectures and held workshops on communication and media activism at Chicago’s top Universities

• Administered CAIR-Chicago’s Media Monitor program, a watchdog project that flags and responds to bigoted positions against Muslims in the mainstream press

• Published numerous commentaries and Op-Ed pieces in newspapers and websites

• 2006 was a busy year for CAIR-Chicago’s media department. CAIR-Chicago was featured, quoted, or reported on locally, nationally, and globally 151 times in print news, 64 on broadcast news (TV), and 32 on radio. News agencies included:

  • Newspapers: Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun-Times, Daily Herald, Daily Southtown, Southwest Daily Herald, Washington Post, Orlando Sentinel, Northwest Indiana Times, Die Zeit (Germany), Thueringer Allgemeine (Germany), and the International Herald Tribune (France) among others

  • Newswires: AP, Reuters, AFP, Medill, and Kyodo (Japan)

    • Magazines: Chicago Parent, Ms. Magazine, Time Magazine, Crain’s (Chicago Business), Time Out Chicago, and Streetwise

    • Television: CBS 2, NBC 5, ABC 7, WGN 9, PBS 11 (WTTW), FOX 32, MSNBC, CNN, FOX News, HDNews, and BBC World

    • Radio: WBBM 780AM, WLS 890AM, KKMS 980AM (Minnesota), 98FM (Dublin, Ireland), Chicago Public Radio (NPR), and BBC Radio

• Convened a community and media Townhall Meeting with ICNA-Chicago at the Islamic Foundation to address the Danish Cartoon Controversy; 1,000 community members attended. Held a Townhall meeting at the University of Illinois on the same topic

• Appeared as guests on popular news programs including: Chicago Tonight with Phil Ponce, BBC HARDtalk with
YEAR IN REVIEW

Stephen Sackur, The Situation with Tucker Carlson, and Worldview with Jerome McDonnell

- Appeared as part of a special panel of experts on an ABC 9/11 special
- Spoke at journalism conferences including the SPJ (Society of Professional Journalism) conference and the Casey Center for Journalism conference, advising the audience of reporters on how to better cover Muslim issues
- Partnered with the University of Chicago for the second annual Understanding Islam program with Dr. John Esposito as co-panelist. (Last year, CAIR-Chicago’s co-panelists were the editors of the Chicago Tribune)
- Initiated the Chicago Tribune Review project in which the paper’s yearlong reporting and editorializing on Muslim-related topics was assessed for fairness and accuracy

Our Government Relations Department works simultaneously to organize the Chicagoland Muslim community, train volunteers and young leaders in the political process, and cultivate relationships with elected officials on the federal, state, and local levels.

CAIR-Chicago remains at the forefront of Chicago’s American-Muslim grassroots mobilization through a variety of projects. The Government Relations Department’s flagship Project O organizes, mobilizes, and empowers the Muslim community by initiating voter education and turnout. It also works with elected officials to address short-term and long-term civil rights issues.

Lastly, the Government Relations Department builds alliances and coalitions with prominent civil rights and immigrant rights organizations around the Chicagoland area. As an active member of several different coalitions, CAIR-Chicago works to empower the minority community.

Some of CAIR-Chicago’s 2006 Government Relations Highlights include:

- Participated in immigration reform rallies in the Chicago metropolitan area and called for comprehensive immigration
reform

• Worked with the Illinois Coalition on Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) to co-sponsor a National Day of Citizenship Event for the Chicagoland immigrant community

• Served on the Governor’s Racial Profiling Taskforce alongside several civil rights organizations and law enforcement agencies to make recommendations and work on eliminating racial profiling

• Held meetings between candidates during the 2006 primary election, discussed issues of concern to the Muslim community, and discussed candidates’ positions on issues such as civil rights and immigration reform

• Participated in several conferences on comprehensive immigration reform and civil rights and liberties of immigrants and cultivated relationships with national coalitions

• Met with members of Congress in Washington, D.C. and initiated dialogue for comprehensive immigration reform

• Co-sponsored a National Day of Citizenship with ICIRR and many other organizations to bring immigrants together and demand immigration reform

• Co-sponsored the New Americans Democracy Project (NADP) in the third congressional district and hired a full-time community organizer to increase voter registration and voter turnout, registering 1,000 new voters

• Conducted a full scale Get Out the Vote Campaign before and during Election Day and increased voter registration by 80 percent and voter turnout in some areas by 50 percent

• Debuted the Voter Education Project to educate the community about the electoral process and produced the CAIR-Chicago Voter Education Guide 2006 for Election Day. A first of its kind for the Muslim community
YEAR IN REVIEW

- Conducted political activism and civic engagement workshops at mosques and universities while helping students plan political strategies for their schools.

- Co-sponsored workshops with community-based grassroots organizations to train community members on civil duty and introductory level government classes.

- Facilitated meetings with members of Congress around the war in Lebanon, asking for a call for a ceasefire and proactive legislation around the issue.

Outreach

By far the year's biggest outreach effort was the national Explore the Life of the Prophet campaign, as a response to the cartoon controversy, which sparked international uproar. Turning this unfortunate news into an opportunity to educate, CAIR initiated a campaign whereby anyone interested could order a free copy of the Legacy of the Prophet (pbuh) DVD and a book about the life of the Prophet (pbuh). This project received major news coverage from National Public Radio, ABC World News Tonight, and USA Today, among other news agencies. More than 15,000 copies of the DVD have been requested so far and numerous recipients have expressed their appreciation.

With a nurturing of activism at the grassroots level, CAIR-Chicago had its most successful year ever with its internship program designed to train high school and college students in media relations, political activism, civil rights and community relations.

Interfaith

The Building Bridges to Islam lecture series sponsored by CAIR-Chicago and the Elderhostel enjoyed a second strong year in 2006. The program hosted 600 Christians, Jews and others, in a series of 8 full-day programs held at the Islamic Community Center of Des Plaines mosque. The highly-rated program included lectures, Q & A sessions, open panel discussion, dinner, mosque tour, and prayer service.

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 2006. Events included blood drives, feeding the homeless, and building a home on Chicago’s Southside with Habitat for Humanity.

Open Mosque Series

In 2006, CAIR-Chicago launched the Open Mosque Series which ran detailed features on local mosques, every couple of weeks, in an attempt to strengthen the bonds between the various Muslim and non-Muslim communities of Illinois.
University / Academia

CAIR-Chicago’s leadership delivered keynote speeches at eight universities in the United States including the University of Illinois, the University of Chicago, and the University of Minnesota.

Ramadan Outreach

CAIR-Chicago was in full-swing with its outreach efforts to the community in Ramadan 2006. CAIR-Chicago coordinated presentations on its services and updates on its progress during the *Tārāweeh* (night prayer) gatherings in 16 mosques, both in the Chicagoland area and the Midwest.

Internship/Externship Program

CAIR-Chicago has partnered with several universities and law schools to pioneer a for-credit and non-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
- Northwestern Illinois University
- Northern Illinois University
- Northwestern University
- Robert Morris College
- Roosevelt University
- University of Chicago
- University of Illinois at Chicago

CAIR-Chicago hosted a total of 63 Interns/Externs in the year 2006, 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.

International Outreach

CAIR-Chicago hosted several international delegations of Muslim scholars and activists from the Philippines, Myanmar, Palestine, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Denmark, and England. CAIR-Chicago staff also presented to international audiences in Denmark, England, Turkey, and Egypt.
STAFF AND BOARD

Board of Directors

Safaa Zarzour, Esq. – Chairman
Dr. Mazen Kudaimi – Vice-Chairman
Yaser Tabbara, Esq. – Secretary
Hina Sodha, Esq. – Treasurer
Alif Muhammad – Member
Ahmed Rehab – Member

Staff

Ahmed Rehab – Executive Director
Christina Abraham – Civil Rights Coordinator
Dina Rehab – Outreach Coordinator
Sultan Muhammad – Communications Coordinator
Sadiya Ahmed – Government Relations Coordinator
Sabah Ahmed – Operations Coordinator
Heena Musabji – Staff Attorney
Maaria Mozaffar – Legal Advisor
Rima Kapitan – Pro Bono Attorney
Veronica Zapata – Sensitivity Training Coordinator
Haady Taslim – Community Organizer
RECOGNITIONS

GREETINGS

As Governor of the State of Illinois, I am pleased to welcome everyone gathered for the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) – Chicago’s Third Annual Banquet.

I commend the Council on American-Islamic Relations – Chicago for your ongoing commitment to serving the needs of Chicago Muslim population and fighting against racism, xenophobia, and Islamophobia. CAIR Chicago has helped to raise awareness among our elected officials and provide educational programs to address the challenges faced by Muslims and promote understanding and respect for Islam. CAIR Chicago’s work is vital in promoting the values of freedom of speech and assembly, and democracy. I am proud to support the important work that CAIR Chicago is doing.

Sincerely,

Rahm Emanuel
Governor

February 11, 2007

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Jesse White • Secretary of State

February 11, 2007

CAIR-Chicago
Council on American-Islamic Relations
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 annual banquet. I am happy to extend my best wishes and warmest greetings to all who have gathered to participate in this noteworthy event.

I applaud and commend the Council on American-Islamic Relations for its many efforts and commitment in helping to ensure justice, civil rights, and the ending of discriminatory practices throughout the community. Your dedication and leadership have been instrumental in making our society a more inclusive, diverse, and united community.

As Illinois’ Secretary of State, I am committed to upholding the principles of justice and equality for all individuals, and I am proud to support the Council on American-Islamic Relations in its efforts to promote understanding and respect for Islam. I hope that you will continue to find genuine support for your human rights and democratic advocacy.

Sincerely,

Jesse White
Secretary of State
Dear Mr. Rehab,

I am pleased to send my greetings to everyone gathering at Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois to celebrate the 3rd Annual Gala of the Council on American-Islamic Relations Chicago Chapter. It is important to present an opportunity to acknowledge our successes and challenges, and to recognize our achievements and present our concerns and accomplishments.

CAIR-Chicago has shown a comprehensive network of support to one of the largest Muslim populations in the United States, including services to Muslim communities to enhance our understanding and raise awareness. CAIR-Chicago continues to work on legal and policy issues, and to promote community empowerment. CAIR-Chicago has been called on frequently to provide training on hate crimes, help to draft policies, and to raise awareness.

I am proud to be with CAIR-Chicago and their many initiatives in making all citizens a priority. CAIR-Chicago leadership has been instrumental in their efforts to advance the interests of all humanity, justice, and U.S. foreign and continuing our work together to advance the values of peace, justice, and equality.

On behalf of the leadership of Illinois, please accept my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for your continued success.

Sincerely,

Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.

Member of Congress

February 11, 2007

Mr. Ahmed Rehab
CAIR-CHICAGO
28 East Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1410
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Mr. Rehab:

I would like to congratulate the Chicago Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations on its 3rd Annual Gala at the Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois.

Over the past three years, CAIR-Chicago has developed a reputation for professionalism that transcends both its community services and its public relations work. Understanding the value of a united community, CAIR-Chicago has worked hard to connect Muslims and non-Muslims in Metropolitan Chicago, empowering individuals to work together on issues of social justice.

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

Sincerely,

Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.

Member of Congress
RECOGNITIONS

February 1, 2007

Ahmed Rashid, Executive Director
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-Chicago)
28 East Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1412
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Rashid,

I respectfully wish to congratulate CAIR-Chicago on the happy occasion of your 7th Annual Event of Community Commitment to a safer in our great City of Chicago.

CAIR-Chicago has been an important partner in the community. It is an organization that has been at the forefront of protecting civil rights of Muslims in this country. The work of CAIR-Chicago has been instrumental in promoting understanding and respect between communities. I applaud your efforts and wish you continued success in your future endeavors.

Yours sincerely,

Vance T. Henry
Director of CAIR

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February 1, 2007

Mr. Ahmed M. Rashid
Executive Director
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), Illinois Chapter
28 East Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1412
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Rashid,

Thank you for the opportunity to attend your 7th Annual Event of Community Commitment to a safer in our great City of Chicago. I wish to extend my appreciation to you and your organization for your dedicated efforts in fostering mutual understanding and respect between communities.

As you and I have discussed on several occasions, the national security of the United States and the protection of the civil rights of all Americans are among the highest priorities of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. We have a shared commitment to the pursuit of justice and the promotion of civil rights for all Americans. The Federal Bureau of Investigation is committed to working closely with all law enforcement agencies and community leaders to effectively address any threats to national security.

We extend our congratulations to you and your organization on the successful conclusion of your 7th Annual Event of Community Commitment to a safer. We are proud to be associated with your noble efforts in promoting mutual understanding and respect between communities.

Sincerely,

Special Agent in Charge

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February 1, 2007

Mr. Ahmed M. Rashid
Executive Director
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), Illinois Chapter
28 East Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1412
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Rashid,

Thank you for your kind invitation to attend the 7th Annual Event of Community Commitment to a safer in Chicago. I am honored to be associated with your noble efforts in promoting mutual understanding and respect between communities.

The protection of national security and the promotion of civil rights of all Americans are among the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s highest priorities. We are committed to working closely with all law enforcement agencies and community leaders to effectively address any threats to national security.

We extend our congratulations to you and your organization on the successful conclusion of your 7th Annual Event of Community Commitment to a safer. We are proud to be associated with your noble efforts in promoting mutual understanding and respect between communities.

Sincerely,

Special Agent in Charge
RECOGNITIONS

Village of Bridgeview

February 11, 2007

Congratulations

It gives me great pleasure to extend my best wishes and congratulations to CAIR-Chicago on its 35th Annual Banquet. This event brings together people from all walks of life-the media, elected officials, community leaders, and others-to discuss issues of concern to our community. This is an event that is important not only to CAIR-Chicago, but also to the community at large.

As the Mayor of the Village of Bridgeview, I am proud to support CAIR-Chicago and its efforts to promote understanding and tolerance. CAIR-Chicago is a vital resource for our community, providing valuable information and resources to help bridge the gap between different cultures and faiths.

I urge all of you to support CAIR-Chicago and to continue to work towards a more inclusive and tolerant society.

Sincerely,

Thomas S. Manzella
Mayor

Village of Harwood Heights

February 11, 2007

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 the 35th Annual Banquet of CAIR-Chicago.

CAIR-Chicago continues to work tirelessly to promote a fair and humane society, striving for the goals of peace, justice, and equality. The achievement of these goals benefits all residents of our communities and helps to re-enforce a strong and free democratic society.

CAIR-Chicago is to be commended for its efforts. Please accept my heartfelt congratulations and thank you all for your support of CAIR-Chicago.

Sincerely,

Thomas S. Manzella
Mayor
February 2, 2007

CAIR-CHICAGO
28 E. Jackson Blvd.
Suite 5410
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Friends,

I am writing to 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 is truly extraordinary.

This past year, you also successfully started “Project O”, registering thousands of new Muslim voters and providing an excellent educational resource. Also, praise has been showered upon you from all sources of media for everything that you’ve achieved.

I apologize that I am unable to attend your 3rd 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,

[Signature]

Carol Pankau
State Senator – 23rd District

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To My Friends at CAIR

I would like to congratulate the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) on the organization’s third annual meeting, and an outstanding year of defending the rights of Muslim Americans.

Since its formation in 2003, the CAIR Chicago has made many significant contributions to the city of Chicago and the surrounding areas.

A group with one of the largest Muslim populations in the nation, CAIR’s commitment to promoting the civil rights and liberties of all Americans, regardless of their religion, ethnicity, race or sex, is both admirable and, unfortunately, necessary.

It is regrettable that our society is still plagued by the fear, exclusion, and prejudice of the Constitution and the willingness of some to attack the public and protect the rights of Muslim Americans. This has been raised the community ever since, and the public overall.

The organization’s successful advocacy work continues to positively impact lives of thousands of Illinois residents. Its dedication to CAIR’s annual efforts to create outreach programs. Project O, which has reached over 1,000 Muslim Americans, to educate them about the different engagement and participation in the democratic process is needed.

I encourage you to continue your work and voice the Council on American-Islamic Relations to them on their commitment to making their state and nation a better place to live.

CAIR’s ongoing efforts to combine American values with the process, while fighting against personal attacks and lies, is deserving of the most intense support and understanding.

In the future, I look forward to working alongside CAIR to help this very important organization accomplish its mission to promote the fundamental rights of all American citizens.

[Signature]

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