

## Official HIC Statement on Inquiries Regarding Recent Mosque Opposition

After reviewing some of the social media posts, it is evident that there are community members who, based primarily on misinformation regarding this project and perhaps their own views about Islam as a whole, have reservations and concerns about our plans to establish a house of worship. The misunderstandings expressed in these posts are dangerous and further underscore the urgent need for an Islamic house of worship to help correct the perception of Islam in Harford County and foster comradery among the residents of Harford county. Islam along with Christianity and Judaism, is one of the three Abrahamic (Prophet Ibrahim) faiths and reiterates the same values of morality, human decency and sanctity of all life.

The Harford Islamic Center (HIC) - Masjid Ibrahim board is humbled to share that plans have been submitted to subdivide a ~12 acre parcel from the 51 acre farmland to establish such a house of worship as determined and guided by Harford county government rules and regulations.

We aim to serve the needs of the local Muslim community and seek to strengthen interfaith harmony, peace and love to enrich the fabric of our county.

Harford County is home to tens of Muslim families - who work as physicians, emergency first responders, businesses, educators and have been law abiding tax paying citizens of Harford county for decades. These families come from many different backgrounds and contribute to society in countless ways. We are proud to call Harford County home!

Religious freedom is the hallmark of any democracy and is one of America's strongest principles. In fact, our country was founded by pilgrims fleeing religious persecution.

The HIC family looks forward to working with our neighbors to achieve this goal of establishing a place of worship by strengthening and building interfaith cooperation, working with elected leaders, law enforcement officials and others who strive towards a vibrant, diverse God-fearing community.

We look forward to a formal interview with you and the media to further clarify this situation in the very near future. In the meantime any inquiries or comments can be directed to info@hic-md.org.

On behalf of the entire HIC community, Thank you again for this opportunity to address our community with factual information.

Sincerely, HIC Management