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Press Release

Burial Advice & Assistance

Queens, NY, April 13, 2020: This is an update with additional information on the burial of our loved ones during this devastating pandemic. We pray for the forgiveness of our Muslim brothers and sisters who have passed away. May Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'ala grant them Jannat-ul-Firdaus (Highest Paradise). We also ask Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'ala to comfort their families and ease their burden during this difficult time.

Al-Hamdu Lillah, over thirty concerned community leaders from more than fourteen Masaajid and Islamic Organizations participated in a virtual meeting on Sunday, April 12, 2020. This was a special meeting to share information, give an update on actions taken by individuals and organizations with regard to the very critical situation of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the difficulties of performing the burial rites of Muslims.

We wish to acknowledge the dedication and commitment of those involved and acted with the intention of benefitting the entire community. May Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'ala reward them for their concerns and sacrifices for the Muslim Community. We are sharing this detail with the public to inform anyone with a loved one who has passed away.

BACKGROUND:

- There have been delays in the burial process primarily due to the number of deaths, the rules enforced by hospitals, the capacity of funeral homes, and the ability of cemeteries to bury the deceased. Washington Memorial Cemetery (WMC), in Long Island, can only do 10 burials daily for all faiths.
- The funeral homes are picking up the deceased from hospitals based on their limited refrigerated space which remains at full capacity.
- Burials in NJ are faster allowing the funeral homes to pick up a deceased as quickly as space is available.

ACTIONS TAKEN:

- To address our immediate challenge of storage of the deceased, efforts were made to increase refrigerated capacity at local funeral homes. We were able to secure a refrigerated trailer for Bergen Funeral Home to house our deceased until burial on April 9th. It was too large for the entrance on 114 Pl.
- Multiple attempts were made with the owner of Bergen Funeral Home for alternative means of parking the trailer in the lot but the owner had concerns and decided against the trailer in the yard.
- Several phone calls were made to Governmental Offices seeking help, solution, and assurance that we would be allowed to retrieve our deceased regardless of whatever time it takes.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- It is best to do burial in New Jersey at (i) Jersey State Memorial Park (JSMP) or (ii) Marlboro Muslim Memorial Cemetery (MMMC) at this time.
- The Janazah Project has assisted many in the past and has offered to assist any family in need. Those in need were also assisted by Masaajid, Organizations, and individuals in the past. Many from our community donated to the Janazah Project Fund. There is no need for another Janazah Fund.
- Work together to stamp out price gouging and ensure that families are not taken advantage of during this time of need.
- Reach out to the contacts provided in the prior CAMA statement (below) for advice and support.

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Press Release

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Queens, NY, April 5, 2020: “Indeed we belong to Allah, and indeed to Him we will return” [Quran 2:156] The Corona Virus has created upheaval for there are over 2,600 deaths in New York City. Having a loved one passing away brings additional heartache and puts us in a state of mourning. We pray for the forgiveness of our Muslim brothers and sisters who have passed away. May Allah (swt) grant them Jannatul Firdaus (Highest Paradise). We ask Allah (swt) to comfort their family and ease their burden during this difficult time.

If you need assistance to coordinate the burial of a family member, kindly contact the Masajid/Organization listed below.

- **Al-Ihsan Academy:** Sh. Rafeek Mohamed 917-744-7467 or Sh. Nazeem Habibulla 917-403-0553
- **Bronx Islamic Society:** Shamir Khan 917-833-9369
- **Center for Islamic Studies:** Sh. Abdool Hakim 516-643-5453 or Dr. Yousry Ayad 516-765-6535
- **I.S.L.A.M.:** Imran Razack 917-705-4635
- **Masjid Abu Ubaidah:** Shazam Mohamed 917-741-2215
- **Masjid Al-Abidin:** Imam Safraz Bacchus 718-974-4968
- **Masjid Al-Ansar:** Toufil Khan 917-217-5689
- **Masjid Al-Ikhlās:** Abdool Karimbaksh 917-449-7319
- **Masjid Al-Jama:** Jabar Ibrahim 347-698-7776
- **Masjid Ar-Rahman:** Nazaar Mustafa 347-593-2613 or Iqbal Ali 646-210-1671
- **Masjid As-Siddiq:** 718-523-4167 or Salim Zamdin 917-868-4700
- **Masjid Omar ben Abdel Aziz:** Imam Abdul Azeem Khan 718-541-8485
- **Masjid on the Van Wyck:** Sulaman Bacchus 646-872-0600
- **Muslim Support Foundation:** Fahim Rafeek 646-251-7910
- **Nur-ul-Islam:** Ahmad Hamid 347-828-5357
- **Sunnat-ul-Jammat:** Imam Ahamad Ali 646-484-1230 or Wazir Mohammed 347-645-1256

We urge everyone to also follow the guidelines to remain safe and healthy such as washing hands, staying home, and keeping safe social distances if you do have to go out. Please stay connected with your local Masjid to get the latest on this fluid situation.

We pray for the safety, health, and security of all and, again, pray for the forgiveness and Jannatul Firdaus for our loved ones that have returned to Allah (swt). We also pray for the recovery of those affected.

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