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Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullah,

Jumaa (Friday) prayer is an obligation upon every sane, adult, non-traveling Muslim male. Allah says in the Qur'an: "O you who believe, when the call for the salah of Jumu'ah is proclaimed, hasten unto the remembrance of Allah and leave off business (and work). That is best for you if you but knew."¹ This is also reaffirmed by various authentically reported Hadeeths of the messenger of Allah (may peace and blessing be upon him). Accordingly, there is a clear consensus among scholars of Islam on this matter.

The times of all obligatory prayers are set at specific times and must be performed within those set time frames. Allah SWT says: "Verily, for all believers, prayer is indeed a sacred duty linked to particular times [of day]"². The exact times of each obligatory prayer have been elaborated and explained by the Sunnah of the prophet SWT.

The Jumua prayer's time is the same as Dhuhr prayer time, according to the opinion of the majority of scholars. The Dhuhr prayer time begins after the sun just passes its meridian (Zawal). This position is based on a large number of authentic narrations from the time of the Prophet and the righteously guided Caliphs after him.

However, there is also a position related from Imam Ahmed Ibn Hanbal that Jumua can be performed before Dhuhr time. This position is based on a few reports which indicate that on some occasions, Jumua was performed before Dhuhr. Imam Ibn Qudama, a Hanbali jurist, noted that most narrations indicate that Jumua was performed after Dhuhr and fewer narration indicate that on occasions Jumua was performed before Dhuhr. He concluded that the preferred and appropriate time for Jumua is Dhuhr time, but if needed it would be permissible to do it before Dhuhr³.

Over the past few years, we have seen a significant growth in the Muslim community of Windsor. With this growth, it was no longer possible to accommodate all those on whom Jumua is obligatory in two Jumua prayers. Some people were missing Jumua due to unavailability of space, parking and/or work restrictions. Moreover, due to the limited time between Dhuhr and Asr, and implications of dismissal time of the schools near the masjid on traffic flow, it is not possible to have all three prayers after Zawal.

Finally, it is the sunnah of our Prophet (may peace and blessing be upon him) to keep the Jumua khutbah short.

Therefore, based on the above notes, the WIA Board recommends the following:

- The WIA will continue to offer three Jumua prayers at the WIA/Windsor Masjid
- Those who can make Jumua after Zawal, should strive to do so.
- Those with difficult circumstances should attend the Jumua before Zawal.

Allah knows best.

¹ Quran, Surah 62, verse 9.

² Quran, Surah 4, verse 103.

³ Imam Ibn Qudama, Al-Mughni, pages 356-358