



Bergen County Islamic Education Center

November 28th,2021

To our dear respected community, our respected brothers and sisters of this area.

Regarding the relocation of our center from 78 Trinity Pl. to the new building 720-730 Main Street, Hackensack, roughly a mile away from our current location.

The purpose of this statement is to clarify to our community the circumstances leading to the present situation.

We were approached by the city of Hackensack and were told that the redevelopment in the parking lot that surrounds our center will start in the near future. We were given the choice to stay or to relocate. We then started studying the matter so that we can come up with a decision that is sound and reasonable, as we are entrusted with the welfare of the community, as the Board of Trustees (BOT).

The first thing we like to confirm is that from a religious point of view, the scholars amongst themselves differ when it comes to selling an existing building that belongs to the Muslim community. From the evidence we have, we realize it is permissible and not forbidden to relocate our activity in this building to another one taking into consideration the welfare of the community.

We reached out to our active members and to the community at large by all the means we have (e.g. hard copy letters, emails, BCIEC web page, face to face verbal communication, two General Assembly meetings and after the Friday congregational prayers on numerous occasions).

The issues in the above communications mostly pertained to the discussions of:

- 1- What our future status will be in the shadow of the new redevelopment plan of the city of Hackensack.
- 2- The purchase of a spacious new building with an on-site parking capacity of 80 parking spaces.
- 3- The potential sale of our present building so we can relocate our services and avoid complications our community may face due to the city's planned project.

Almost the whole community encouraged us to buy the new building, including the brothers/sisters who now oppose the potential sale of the old building. Alhamdulillah, the new building was purchased on 10/28/21 and right thereafter we secured a tax exemption from the City of Hackensack. We also



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hired an architect to work on the design that will be submitted for the zoning board approval and the department of building certificate of occupancy for a house of worship.

Your brothers in the BOT spent many months of hard work and meetings with city officials and with specialists (lawyers, architects, local developers and real estate experts) and with the respected members of our community and we did not encounter any opposition.

Due to the concerns voiced by some members of the community opposed to the sale of the existing building, a meeting was initiated by the BOT for October 3, 2021 in order to further explain the status we are in and the challenges we expect to face. Unfortunately the meeting was disrupted and the BOT was not given their due right to explain the details of the project.

The opposition insists on keeping the old building together with new one. We the BOT are entrusted custodians of the welfare of our community. It will be a very heavy financial burden for this community to support the new center and the present one as well. The majority of the community supports the BOT's plan and considers it irresponsible to maintain both buildings while the future of the old one, in all probability, seems bleak and unfavorable both financially and legally.

Sadly, the opposition has chosen to take us to court in order to stop the potential sale of this building. They are a minority when compared to the rest of this respected community that supports the sale.

We ask the opposition to drop their case in court because it is not justified, and we invite them to unite with us in facing our future challenges together instead of being a split community.

Thank you for your understanding,

The BOT