



July 17, 2020

Dear Members of the United Muslim American Association of Law Enforcement Professionals (UMAALEP).

May God's Peace Be With You. Assalamu Alaikum.

You are in this profession with the intention to serve and represent our communities. Some of you have family members who are also police officers. Others of you had to convince your family that this was your path and may have followed your passion alone. You have mothers, fathers, wives, children, neighbors, and friends. We are all praying for your safety and the success of your intentions as well.

Last Friday, the IL Muslim Civic Coalition held the first ever Off-the-Record conversation between community leaders with law enforcement officers. UMAALEP leaders helped us frame this conversation. Six officers of all backgrounds and ranks, and both genders joined dozen community leaders – limit is 30 participants total. The Officers shared why they joined the police department, the challenges they face internally, and their hope that we collaborate for change. We will continue these conversations every week towards mutual understanding and deeper collaboration towards civic justice. Join us next Friday at 5-6pm. We will develop push/pull strategies; push for change from the outside and pull for change from the inside. Email Info@ILMuslimCivicCoalition.org to join.

The last few months have been a culmination of decades of fear and frustration. A mirror has been held up to our society, and we do not like what we see. It is time for change. Our system of policing in the United States has been a protection and service to many of our residents, and it has also been a way of subjugating too many of our residents.

Thank you for every time you protect and serve all residents- regardless of their skin color, how much money is in their wallet, or what zip code they live in. We need you to continue to be among those who stand up within a system that restricts honorable officers from calling out discrimination and injustice. We need you to continue to help change policing systems that oppress, subjugate, and imprison residents disproportionately and unjustly. You are leaders in our community- but we don't expect you to do this alone. We will do it together.

Our faith is founded on justice and equity. Surah Nisa/Chapter 4, verse 135 is considered by Muslims, as well as those of other faiths, as one of the most important in articulating justice:

O you who believe, stand firm for justice, witnesses for God, even if it must be against yourselves or your parents and your relatives. Whether one is rich or poor, do not follow inclinations thinking you will not be judged. And if you distort [your testimony] or refuse [to give it], then indeed God knows, and will hold you accountable for it.

You are a valuable part of our community. And as a community, every one of us wants neighborhoods and communities where everyone feels safe, everyone has a fair chance to succeed, and everyone is part of the solution towards justice and equity. It is time to reflect on the system, identify areas that help and those that inhibit society, and take action towards improving. May God bless you for your service, and guide our efforts.

Board and Staff of the IL Muslim Civic Coalition

Dr. Dilara Sayeed

President and Co-Founder, IL Muslim Civic Coalition
Dilara@ILMuslimCivicCoalition.org
Cell/Text 630-640-1865

Reema Kamran

Executive Director and Co-Founder, IL Muslim Civic Coalition
Reema@ILMuslimCivicCoalition.org
Cell/Text 630-640-9422