

March 6, 2012

VIA REGULAR MAIL

Mayor Michael Bloomberg  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

CC: City Council Members

CC: Commissioner Raymond Kelly  
New York City Police Department  
One Police Plaza  
New York, NY 10038

Dear Mayor Bloomberg and Esteemed Members of City Council,

We the undersigned members of the Muslim American Civil liberties Coalition (MACLC) and the Majlis ash-Shura (Islamic Leadership Council) of Metropolitan New York, along with concerned allies, write this letter to voice our deep disappointment at the New York City Police Department's divisive attempt to project the appearance of engaging with New York City's Muslim communities while doing nothing of the sort.

For months, and through a repeated number of letters, several of our leaders and organizations had been asking for meetings with city and police officials to address numerous concerns regarding the NYPD's policies towards our communities. In the absence of any substantive responses, and the steady stream of shocking documents about the NYPD's surveillance of our communities, we were compelled to articulate our complaints and demands directly to some elected officials, through the media, and in press conferences, and through protests.

Against that backdrop, it is all the more disappointing, that the Commissioner's office should try to hold a meeting today with an extremely limited number of Muslim "leaders" to address the NYPD's surveillance programs, excluding the very same legitimate and representative Muslim leaders and organizations that have been pushing for such concerns to be addressed. Instead, the Commissioner Kelly has once again opted to ignore this city's legitimate and representative Muslim leaders and organizations. Rather than face tough questions and fair demands, our top police official prefers proceeding without any regard to transparency, representativeness, or voices that disagree with NYPD policies and practices. Sadly, this is but a small part of a wider pattern of closed-door meetings with a minority of unrepresentative "leaders" over the years, which has directly contributed to the crisis of confidence between the NYPD and New York City's Muslim communities.

In a cynical demonstration of disregard for proper process, the NYPD invited only two community representatives who have been critical of NYPD policies, giving them less than 24 hours' notice ahead of the meeting. It then promptly leaked news of the meeting to the media, indicating that those two representatives would attend. In reality, neither Debbie Almontaser nor Omar Mohammedi had confirmed that they would attend this hastily and arbitrarily convened meeting. How are we to interpret such actions?

Muslim American Civil liberties Coalition (MACLC) & Majlis ash-Shura (Islamic Leadership Council) of Metro NY  
c/o Desis Rising Up & Moving (DRUM), 72-18 Roosevelt Avenue, Jackson Heights, NY 11372

These latest antics cannot be divorced from their larger context. This is the same NYPD that participated in the making and showing of *The Third Jihad*—a prejudiced polemic used to train cadets—and denied it before being confronted with its own documents. It is the same NYPD that tried to dismiss and deny its extensive spying on our entire communities on the basis of religion and ethnic or national origin, on our children in schools and students in universities throughout New York City and beyond.

The inescapable conclusion is that the NYPD does not deem our communities worthy of respect. The experiences of our own communities, taken together with what we see and hear from fellow New Yorkers in Black, Latino, immigrant and other communities, teach us that this NYPD desperately cries for accountability and oversight.

If city officials are sincere about wishing to hear from Muslim communities, then we invite Mayor Bloomberg and Commissioner Kelly to attend an open townhall meeting with Muslim community members from across New York City. Only in that setting will city officials hear the questions weighing on the minds of people in unjustly targeted communities, and only there will they hear about how real flesh and blood, hard-working New Yorkers' lives have been impacted and disrupted by the NYPD's reckless and destructive policies.

If instead of meaningful accountability and engagement such as the townhall, Mayor Bloomberg and Commissioner Kelly persist in their closed-door meetings with hand-picked leaders, then we will have our answer regarding their sincerity.

Sincerely,



Fahd Ahmed  
 Legal and Policy Director  
 Desis Rising Up & Moving

Submitted on behalf of:

Majlis ash-Shura (Islamic Leadership Council) of Metropolitan NY	Muslim American Civil Liberties Coalition
BOROUGH OF QUEENS Masjid Omar Ben-Abdel Aziz Hillside Islamic Center Masjid Al-Hamdu-Lilla Tauhid:Center for Islamic Dev. Muslim Center of New York ICNA – NY Masjid Darul Da'wah Al-Heera Islamic Institute Woodhaven Jame Masjid Islamic Foundation Of New York Masjid Abdul Muhaymin Muslim Foundation of America	Muslim American Society of New York Women In Islam, Inc. Muslim Bar Association of New York Council on American Islamic Relations - New York DRUM - Desis Rising Up and Moving Arab American Association of New York Muslim Consultative Network
BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN	Asian American Legal Defense & Education Fund

<p>Masjid Taqwa  MAS- New York  MAS Youth Center  Masjid Al-Arqam  Masjid Iqamatiddeen  Muslim Ummah of N.A  Masjid Musa'b bin Umair  Islamic Mission of America  Masjid Alfarooq</p> <p><b>BOROUGH OF THE BRONX</b>  Al-Janed Islamic Center  MAS Upper NY Bronx Muslim Center</p> <p><b>BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN</b>  Mosque of Islamic Brotherhood  Muslim Consultative Network  Women In Islam, Inc.  Masjid Sabur</p> <p><b>BOROUGH OF STATEN ISLAND</b>  Masjid Rahmatillah  MAS Community Center</p>	<p>Association of Muslim American Lawyers</p> <p>Muslim Progressive Traditionalist Alliance</p> <p>CLEAR - Creating Law Enforcement Accountability &amp; Responsibility, Main Street Legal Services, City University of New York School of Law</p> <p><b>Additional Allies</b>  Muslim Peace Coalition – NY Chapter</p>
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