



**THE MAJLIS ASH-SHURA (ISLAMIC LEADERSHIP COUNCIL)
OF NEW YORK STATE**

Office of Imam Al-Hajj Talib 'Abdur-Rashid, Special Representative
for Restorative Justice, Civil and Human Rights
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24 Rajab 1441 A.H.
19 March 2020 C.E.

CAPITAL/
NYC REGION
Imam Al-Hajj
Talib'Abdur-
Rashid
CENTRAL/
MID-
WESTERN
REGION
Imam Khalil
Abdul-
Khabir
MID-
HUDSON
REGION,Ima
m Anwar
Kearney
WESTERN
REGION
Imam
Dawoud S.
Adeyola

NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision
Ministerial, Family & Volunteer Services
Building #2 State Campus
Albany, N.Y. 1226-2015

Attn: Jeffrey McKoy, Deputy Commissioner, Program Services

Re: Recommendations for DOCCCS Muslim congregate services

Sir:

Peace and greetings to you, and prayers during this difficult time

In follow-up to our conference call with DOCCS officials this morning, I am writing in order to clarify our position on the above. Encaptioned Matter.

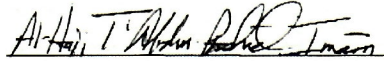
In response to the local, national, and global threat to public health and safety posed by CoVid 19 (the Corona Virus), the Majlis Ash-Shura of New York State formally recommends that all congregate Muslim services in the prisons of the state be suspended until further Notice, subject to daily and weekly review.

Our recommendation meets the primary objective of Islamic canon law, which is the preservation of human life. Further it is consistent with the current recommended practices of mosques and Muslim places and houses of worship in Mecca and Madinah, Arabia, as well as throughout the United States of America, and specifically in the tri-state area of New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

Further, we do not believe that any suggestions for “social distancing “ or separation within such congregate services are appropriate under any circumstances, or at any time.

We appreciate this opportunity to exercise our ongoing partnership, cooperation, and consultation with DOCCS officials, in the interest of all parties. Please call upon us at any time.

Respectfully,



Imam Al-Hajj Talib 'Abdur-Rashid
Special Representative for Restorative
Justice, Civil and Human Rights,
Majlis Ash-Shura of NY State

Cc: file

Al-Hera Islamic Institute, Center for Am. Muslim Res & Info, Hillside Islamic Center, ICNA Markaz NY, Islamic Foundation of New York, Masjid Omar bin Abdul-Aziz, Masjid Abdul-Muhaymin, Masjid Alhamdulillah, Masjid Darud Da'wah (MAS, Queens), Muslim Center of New York, Muslim Foundation of America, Tauhid: Center for Islamic Development, The Mosque of Islamic Brotherhood Inc. Woodhaven Jami Masjid, Brooklyn Broadway Jame Masjid, Islamic Center of Bayridge, Islamic Mission of America, Muslim American Society NY, Muslim American Society MAS Youth Center Brooklyn, Masjid Al-Arqam, Masjid Al-Farouq, Masjid Iqaamatuddeen, Masjid Taqwa, Muslim Ummah of North America, Al Janed Islamic Center, MAS Bronx Muslim Cnter, Nurudeen Islamic Charity Organization, Masjid Sabur, Muslim Consultative Network (MCN), Women in Islam, MAS Community Center Staten Island, Masjid Rahmatullah, Islamic Center of Five Town, Islamic Center of Long Island, Long Island Muslim Society, Masjid Allah Akbar, Masjid Darul-Quran, Masjid Khalil Rauf Abdullah, , Masjid Noor, Hudson Valley Islamic Center (MAS Upper NY)