



October 10, 2019

Council of American-Islamic Relations  
San Francisco Bay Area Office  
316 De La Cruz Blvd., Ste. 110  
Santa Clara, CA 95055

Dear Council of American-Islamic Relations:

I am proud to recognize the incredible accomplishments of the San Francisco Bay Area office of the Council of American-Islamic Relations. This year, CAIR-SFBA is celebrating 25 years of empowering American Muslims and defending the rights of all Americans, fighting against employment discrimination, immigration delays, and other civil rights violations.

I am especially grateful for CAIR-SFBA's contributions to our community right here in Berkeley. CAIR-SFBA has been a critical partner for our office in introducing an ordinance banning discrimination on the basis of hair and headwear. This legislation would make Berkeley the first in the nation to explicitly prohibit discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations based on an individual's choice to wear religious headwear. CAIR-SFBA defended this right to freedom of expression in September, filing a complaint with Air Canada on behalf of Fatima Abdelrahman, a 12-year-old Bay Area native and sister of a UC Berkeley student, who was forced to remove her hijab in public by airline employees. CAIR-SFBA also advocated for the passage of Berkeley's Surveillance Technology Oversight Ordinance and the facial recognition bans in San Francisco and Oakland, paving the way for Berkeley to introduce similar legislation upholding the right to privacy.

The advocacy of the Council of American-Islamic Relations on the state and national level is a powerful force that shapes inclusive, equitable policy. This year, CAIR organized hundreds of community members to go to Sacramento to advocate for issues that are important to them. CAIR advocated for the passage of Assembly Bill 392, a bill endorsed by the City of Berkeley and signed by Governor Newsom that will limit police use of force in California. In response to the immigration policies of the Trump administration, CAIR almost doubled the number of civil rights cases it took on, extending their legal services to provide low-cost or pro bono legal assistance to immigrants seeking citizen applications, adjustment of immigration status, family petitions, and asylum services. CAIR filed a class-action lawsuit to challenge the administration's Muslim Ban



waiver process, fighting on behalf of our friends from affected countries to hold the administration accountable.

These are just a few of the achievements the Council on American Islamic Relations has worked tirelessly to accomplish this year. I am humbled to recognize CAIR-SFBA's 25 years of legal advocacy, civic engagement, and community empowerment that has contributed to a more just society for our Muslim community and the broader Bay Area. I look forward to seeing them continue their work in the upcoming year.

Sincerely,

RIGEL ROBINSON, Berkeley City Councilmember