

Office of the Mayor



Jesse Arreguín
Mayor

November 9, 2019

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 25th annual Council on American-Islamic Relations San Francisco Bay Chapter (CAIR-SFBA) Banquet. I want to thank and congratulate the Council on the remarkable work they do to uphold the civil liberties and promote understanding of the Muslim American community.

Berkeley and the Bay Area is home to people of many faiths and creeds, and it is our diversity that gives us strength. CAIR-SFBA works diligently to ensure that these values which we all enshrine continue to remain strong in the face of increasing adversity across the nation. In 2018, CAIR-SFBA filed a federal lawsuit when a student from UC Berkeley was kicked off a plane for speaking Arabic. This is just one example of the hundreds of cases that are worked on each year, with low-cost or pro-bono legal services being expanded.

Casework is just one of the many aspects of CAIR-SFBA and their contributions to the community. When the Berkeley City Council was developing a Surveillance Ordinance, CAIR-SFBA worked with us to ensure that the ordinance prioritized the right to privacy while still protecting public safety. CAIR-SFBA has also engaged with the Muslim American community in advocating for state legislation, training to deal with hate crimes, and empowering youth through leadership programs.

Thank you for the courageous work that you do, and I look forward to continue working with you and the Muslim American community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jesse Arreguín'.

Jesse Arreguín
Mayor, City of Berkeley