



Executive Order 2017-1

January 11, 2017

Establishing the Muslim-American Advisory Board

Amending Executive Order 2016-5, issued November 22, 2016

WHEREAS, since the use of divisive language in the recent 2016 election, a rash of hate crimes targeting minorities have inflamed community tensions; and

WHEREAS, according to the FBI, hate crimes nationally have increased against Muslim Americans by 67% since 2014; and

WHEREAS, regardless of religious affiliation, the City of Providence welcomes and encourages religious freedom and religious expression and is committed to protecting the civil liberties of all Americans; and

WHEREAS, discrimination will not be tolerated or accepted in any way towards any citizen of our city because of race, ethnicity, national origin, language, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, political affiliation, religion, physical or mental disability; and

WHEREAS, the City of Providence is focused on promoting a compassionate and forward-thinking Providence; and

WHEREAS, the Elorza Administration realizes that a society that reflects values such as equity, inclusion, and respect for the dignity of every individual that lives amongst us is paramount to the success of our community; and

NOW THEREFORE, do I, Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor of the City of Providence, order the following, effective November 22, 2016, *nunc pro tunc*:

1. The *Muslim American Advisory Board* is hereby created.
2. The goals and duties of this Advisory Board shall include the following:
 - a. The Advisory Board will work to build a system that better serves the Muslim American community in Providence; and
 - b. The Advisory Board will provide advice on policy decisions that affect Muslim Americans in Providence, reviewing and discussing issues that directly and indirectly affect this community; and
 - c. The Advisory Board will encourage dialogue and promote mutual understanding.
3. The Advisory Board shall meet no less than twice per year.
4. The Advisory Board shall be chaired by the Mayor or his designee. The Advisory Board shall include at least five (5) members, but no more than nine (9) members, appointed by the Mayor.
5. Members of the Advisory Board shall serve a term of two (2) years. No member of the Board shall continue in office after his or her term expires without being reappointed.
6. This Executive Order shall remain in full force and effect until it is repealed.

Jorge O. Elorza
Mayor

Dated: January 11, 2017