



**Arab American Association of New York**

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July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Chief Philip Banks  
Community Affairs Unit  
New York Police Department  
One Police Plaza  
New York, NY 10038

Dear Chief Philip Banks,

On behalf of the Arab American Association of New York (AAANY), I'm writing to request a public correction and redistribution of a recent New York Police Department (NYPD) press release titled "NYPD holds 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Pre-Ramadan Conference." The release erroneously lists Dr. Ahmad Jaber, founder and current Board Chair of the AAANY as member of the newly established NYPD Muslim Advisory Council.

Upon consultation with Dr. Jaber who is currently outside the country, I learned that he never consented to joining this Advisory Council. As such, we are requesting the NYPD issue a public correction acknowledging that he was incorrectly listed as a member and removing Dr. Ahmad Jaber as a member of this NYPD Muslim Advisory Council.

Listing individuals without formal consent calls into question the NYPD's integrity and credibility for the process of engaging the Muslim community and its leaders. Moreover, as our organization and partner groups have repeatedly stressed in correspondence to the police department, it is not the NYPD's role to appoint unilaterally the representatives for our communities. For the NYPD's engagement effort to have any legitimacy, the department must be willing to meet with representatives chosen by the communities themselves.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 917.306.3323.

Sincerely,

Linda Sarsour  
Executive Director