



*Los Angeles County*  
**Sheriff's Department**  
*Muslim Community Affairs Unit*



## **OUR CORE VALUES**

**As a leader in the  
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department,**

**I commit myself to  
honorably perform my duties with**

**Respect for the dignity of all people,**

**Integrity to do right and fight wrongs,**

**Wisdom to apply common sense  
and fairness in all I do and**

**Courage to stand against racism, sexism,  
anti-Semitism, homophobia and bigotry in all its forms**

## SHERIFF BACA'S VISION

"The Muslim American community plays a vital role in protecting the people of the United States. Their participation and our continuing effort to both educate and engage community support is essential to the entire Homeland Security endeavor."



## MUSLIM COMMUNITY AFFAIRS UNIT MISSION

*To build a stronger relationship with the Muslim community for better understanding and cooperation with law enforcement.*

## MUSLIM COMMUNITY AFFAIRS UNIT OBJECTIVE

- Address needs of the Muslim American community
- Liaison with the Muslim American community
- Liaison with MAHSC board members and their organizations
- Dialogue with young Muslim American leaders
- Host town hall meetings
- Attend community events
- Provide training for the community
- Address hate crime and hate incident issues with the community

## MUSLIM COMMUNITY AFFAIRS UNIT STAFF

One Sergeant, one full-time Deputy, five part-time Deputies assigned to various units. All members of the unit are Muslim Americans from diverse cultural backgrounds, speaking various languages including Arabic, Farsi, Pashtu, Urdu, and Swahili.

*For more information about the Muslim Community Affairs Unit please contact:  
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or visit [www.lasd.org/sites/muslimoutreach](http://www.lasd.org/sites/muslimoutreach)*

## MUSLIM AMERICAN HOMELAND SECURITY CONGRESS

The Muslim American Homeland Security Congress (MAHSC) was established in 2006 by Sheriff Leroy Baca. In the wake of July 7, 2005 London Train Bombings, the Muslim American community has been working on various ways of supporting and participating in the security needs of America. Sheriff Leroy D. Baca of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department saw the need to organize and formalize these efforts into one umbrella organization with the help of the Muslim American community.

To this end, by collaborating with national and local elected officials, law enforcement, civic and interfaith groups, MAHSC can help to prevent terrorism, acts of prejudice and protect the United States, its constitution, and its people.

MAHSC is a non-political, non-governmental, non-religious, and non-profit organization.

### **MAHSC Mission:**

*The Muslim American Homeland Security Congress shall foster education and understanding, organization and empowerment, communication and cooperation with the American public, to protect and defend the United States of America and all people through the prevention of terrorism and any acts of prejudice.*



The purpose of MAHSC:

- Involves community organizations in the solution
- Pre-established trust of the member organizations
- MAHSC board members include well known community organizations
  - Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC)
  - Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)
  - Iranian Muslim-American Association of North America
  - Council of Pakistan-American Affairs (COPAA)
  - Omar Ibn Al-Khattab Foundation
  - Local Mosques and Islamic Centers



## YOUNG MUSLIM AMERICAN LEADERS ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Young Muslim American Leaders Advisory Council (youngMALAC) was established with the purpose of empowering young Muslim American adults, encourage civic engagement and cooperation with law enforcement while developing leadership among Muslim youth. This reinforces Sheriff

Baca's vision of "...you want to create a new generation of children, teach them how to be leaders as soon as you possibly can."



The youngMALAC consists of twelve board members that work closely with the **Muslim Community Affairs Unit** to plan activities, functions, and training sessions as well as act as the liaison to local youth and young-adult groups.

### **youngMALAC Mission:**

*Young MALAC, a proactive advisory council, works closely with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department to promote safety, security and awareness in local communities through civic participation, community service, community development, interfaith dialogue and other means that contribute to a harmonious society.*



Some of the recent activities that board members participated in include volunteering at a local mission where they served food to the homeless and less fortunate during Thanksgiving. Most recently, youngMALAC members partnered with the Sheriff's Department "999 for Kids" Christmas Party where lunch and toys were provided for physically and mentally challenged children throughout Los Angeles County who are victims of the most severe cases of child abuse, neglect, and domestic violence.

youngMALAC members also assist the Sheriff's Department in coordinating community presentations at various locations. Recently, a training presentation was held for the Muslim community about law enforcement functions and the different duties of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. Meetings with Muslim youth and young adults is held on a monthly basis and is structured to be a combination of an educational segment and a question and answer session where the community is able to ask questions to the **Muslim Community Affairs Unit** as well as provide recommendations to the Sheriff's Department. Partnering with the future leaders of the community is of great importance and is an investment in the future to strengthen the relationship between the Muslim community and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

## OUTREACH COORDINATORS GROUP

Various government agencies have instituted an outreach and/or public relations program in various capacities. In an effort to minimize duplicating our efforts and to utilize our resources efficiently, the LASD created an Outreach Coordinators Group to work in conjunction with each other to better serve the community. Several "multi-agency" community town hall meetings have been held through the partnership of the Outreach Coordinators Group.

The group consists of:

- Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
- Los Angeles Police Department
- City of Los Angeles Human Relations Commission
- California Emergency Management Agency
- DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
- DHS Transportation Security Administration
- DHS Citizenship and Immigration Services



## CULTURAL DIVERSITY TRAINING

As our communities grow more diverse, law enforcement officers must be well educated in the cultures, customs, and beliefs of the communities we serve. Being aware of the various cultures we police will not only foster better relations between law enforcement and the community but also make law enforcement more efficient, reduce liability, and build trust.



- Provide cultural diversity training to recruits
- Better understanding of the communities we serve
- Reduce public complaints
- Gain confidence and respect from community
- Public trust policing

## MUSLIM COMMUNITY MEETINGS



Many Muslim men and women have concerns with law enforcement and government in general. These men and women do not have a way or the means to express their concerns in a cooperative manner. Community meetings were developed to give the community an opportunity to voice their concerns with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's

Department. The attendees are also encouraged to become more civically engaged with their local, state, and federal governments to better understand their roles and become involved in the policy making process.

The Muslim American community faces the same issues as any other community. They are affected by teen drinking, narcotics use, identity theft, domestic violence, etc. The **Muslim Community Affairs Unit** also provides training sessions on these and other topics for the meeting attendees. These meetings are held at various locations including Mosques, community centers, and Sheriff Stations throughout the greater Los Angeles area.

Muslim community meetings:

- Meets monthly to provide various training (hate crime, ID theft, domestic violence, etc.) to community members
- Provides the community an open forum to discuss issues of concern (profiling, discrimination, etc.) and provide them guidance on the redress system
- Encourage employment with various government agencies



## COMMUNITY EVENTS

To build trust and communication with the Muslim American community, the **Muslim Community Affairs Unit** regularly participates and attends numerous community events. Participation in these family events strengthens the relationship between the LASD and the Muslim American community. As the community sees and interacts with law enforcement more, the community will feel comfortable in approaching law enforcement with their concerns.

Functions attended:

- Community events (picnics, carnivals, banquets)
- Religious celebrations (Eid, Ramadan, Mawlid al-Nabi)
- Mosque open houses





## ISLAMIC SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS

Public schools have access to their local Sheriff or Police Departments to provide presentations and education for their students. Private Islamic schools tend to be hesitant to contact their local law enforcement agencies to provide these services. Because of the trust the Muslim Community Affairs Unit has built, Islamic schools often request presentations to their students on various topics including drug recognition presentations, career day presentations, and show and tell sessions.



## TOWN HALL MEETINGS



A very effective tool for addressing large groups of the community is through town hall meetings. Town hall meetings provide a forum for the Muslim community to address their concerns relating to the LASD. To better utilize resources and the community's time, these town hall meetings often include various government agencies (LAPD, DHS – Civil Rights & Civil Liberties, DHS – Transportation Security Administration, DHS – Citizenship and Immigration Services, Los Angeles City Human Relations Commission). These “multi agency” forums allow the community members to have their questions answered by the various government agencies in one setting. When the community sees high ranking government officials, such as the Sheriff, taking the time to meet with them directly, it adds a sense of security and comfort for the community.

## TOURS OF LASD FACILITIES

The ***Muslim Community Affairs Unit*** provides community members the opportunity to visit and tour various LASD facilities in an effort to encourage recruitment into the LASD. Tours of jail facilities, patrol stations, the Emergency Operations Center, and the Sheriff's Academy and Museum have been conducted.



## LASD COMMUNITY ACADEMY

The Community Academy Program provides insight to community members into the Sheriff's Department and how we do our job. The **Muslim Community Affairs Unit** routinely encourages members of the Muslim American community to enroll in the community academy to learn about law enforcement. The group meets once each week for about 8 weeks. The curriculum includes presentations by department members, ride-alongs, and role-playing.

## INTERNATIONAL DELEGATION ASSISTANCE AND OUTREACH

In an effort to gain understanding and exchange best practices, Sheriff Baca and LASD employees have exchanged experiences with officials from more than 40 different countries, either by visiting their countries or by their police officials meeting with the LASD staff in Los Angeles County. Sheriff's Department personnel accompanied Sheriff Baca on visits to numerous Middle Eastern countries including Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel, Egypt, Abu Dhabi, and Qatar to meet with law enforcement and government officials to discuss areas of mutual concern. This included the International Association of Chiefs of Police IACP/MILIPOL International Conference on Terrorism Technology in 2008. In addition to an audience with Prime Minister Al Thani, visits included discussions on emergency management, law enforcement training exchange programs, and the proposed initiation of an International Conference on "Professional Diplomacy" which was held in Los Angeles in 2009. The Muslim Community Affairs Unit played a key role in hosting law enforcement officers from the State of Qatar during a recent collaborative training session with the LASD Motorcycle Training Unit.

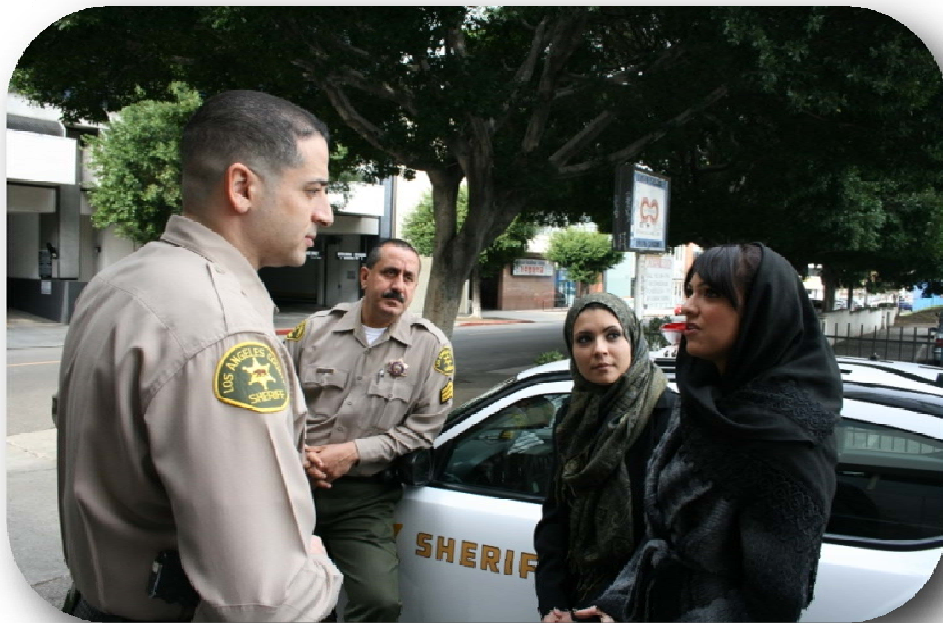


The Muslim Community Affairs Unit has also been asked to make several presentations about outreach efforts by several foreign government officials that showed great interest in the LASD Muslim Outreach program. These officials represented several countries including Bangladesh, France, Britain, Indonesia and Qatar.

## SUCCESS

How do we measure our success? Through the increasing partnerships we are developing with the Muslim American community. Before the **Muslim Community Affairs Unit** was developed, very rarely did you see a member of the Muslim American community approach law enforcement for any reason, whether they are a victim of a crime or simply wished to express their concerns about a problem in the community. Through our outreach efforts and the programs outlined above, members of the community no longer think twice before calling the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department or the **Muslim Community Affairs Unit**. The community appreciates the fact that the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department values their concerns and established such a unique unit.

It has also become normal to see Deputies in uniform among the Muslim American community and praying side by side with them in Mosques, parks, or private settings. The uniform is no longer seen as a threat but rather as a comfort in Los Angeles area mosques.



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