



## Islamic Community Center of South Charlotte

1048 Gant Road Fort Mill, SC 29707 | [iccsc.org](http://iccsc.org)

June 16, 2023

Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuhu,

We hope this letter finds you in the best of health and Iman. As members of the Muslim community, it is essential for us to reflect upon the fundamental teachings of Islam and the significance of unity in our social sphere. Islam, as guided by the Quran, holds the promotion of unity among believers as one of its ultimate goals. In Surah Hujurat, Ayah 10, Allah explicitly refers to the believers as brothers, emphasizing the importance of strong bonds within our community. Moreover, the preceding Ayah provides a protocol for the believers to counteract those who seek to spread disunity and mischief. An exemplary reminder of the consequences of disunity can be found in the aftermath of the Battle of Badr. When the believers disputed over worldly possessions, Allah reprimanded them through the opening Ayat of Surat al-Anfal, highlighting the significance of unity and cooperation in times of adversity. These timeless teachings of the Quran continue to guide us towards unity. Additional references to Muslim unity can be found in Surahs such as 3:103, 8:46, 8:63-64, and 42:13-14, serving as reminders of our collective responsibility to foster harmony and solidarity within our community.

Our beloved Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, not only affirmed the message of unity found in the Quran but also admonished those who sowed discord and disunity. It is crucial to understand that actions undertaken without adhering to the Sunnah of our Messenger, peace and blessings be upon him, carry severe consequences, both in this life and the hereafter.

While this information is widely known among the educated in matters of the Faith, it is disheartening to witness individuals within our community who seek to undermine the unity of believers and prioritize their own self-interests. The purpose of this statement is to reiterate the significance of unity in Islam, clarify the role of the Imam at ICCSC, and shed light on the rationale and decision-making process of religious affairs for the community.

Halal and Haram matters hold utmost importance in our Islamic jurisprudential tradition. Formulating conclusions on such matters requires a strong foundation in Fiqh and Usul al-fiqh, an advanced understanding of the Arabic language, and comprehensive knowledge of concepts like Nasikh and Mansukh, Mutlaq and Muqayyad, 'Aam and Khaas, and Mafhoom and Mantuq. Rulings on Islamic matters are based on thorough study of the Quran and Islamic tradition, rather than individual inclinations.

Regarding the issue of multiple Jumu'ah prayers, Islamic scholars have concluded that having various Jumu'ah prayers in one Masjid is impermissible unless there is a valid necessity. As stated in al-

Mawsoo'ah al-Fiqhiyyah, "According to the majority of jurists, it is impermissible to hold two Jumu'ah prayers in one town except for a necessity, such as when the mosque is not spacious enough to accommodate all the worshippers because the Prophet, sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam, and the Rightly-Guided Caliphs used to hold only one Jumu'ah prayer."

Our facility is currently sufficient to accommodate the number of attendees, for which we praise Allah. The Imam, who diligently attends the Masjid and remains aware of its day-to-day affairs, does not perceive the need for an additional Jumu'ah prayer at this time. The individuals approaching guests to deliver the unsanctioned second khutbah are doing so without permission or authorization from the Imam. Their actions, devoid of consultation and agreement, are causing confusion, disunity, and bringing disgrace to the name of our Masjid.

The Imam holds the responsibility for all religious affairs, declarations, actions, and practices within the Masjid. All religious decisions must receive the Imam's approval and sanction. With a comprehensive understanding of the community's needs and a studied background, this responsibility falls upon the Imam as the religious leader of the Masjid. Section II of the bylaws clearly states that any Sharia issue or matter in the Islamic Community Center of South Charlotte (ICCS) is not subject to a vote. It should exclusively be referred to the Head Imam and/or the Sharia Council of Charlotte for a verdict. In the absence of the Head Imam and/or the Sharia Council of Charlotte, the matter should be referred to the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) Fiqh committee or any qualified Fiqh scholars agreed upon by the organization.

The claim that attendees of the unapproved second Jumu'ah prayer are at risk of being removed by the police from the premises is utterly false and baseless. It is an unfortunate lie propagated by individuals who engage in bullying and harassment towards the Imam. The Imam has endured persistent harassment and false accusations from these individuals, including unauthorized recording during closed sessions, the dissemination of videos online without his consent, and continuous badgering. Such actions infringe upon the Imam's legal rights. It is imperative that they immediately cease their activities, as their behavior constitutes personal harassment.

In conclusion, the Imam reiterates the call for unity and harmony within the community. As mentioned in the bylaws, he reserves the right to decide on Islamic jurisprudential rulings. Furthermore, he reaffirms that there is only one sanctioned and approved Jumu'ah prayer at ICCSC, and neither the Imam nor any Shura Member requested police intervention regarding the congregants.

May we strive for unity, understanding, and cooperation within our community, upholding the principles of Islam and the teachings of our Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

(Further reading on ICCSC's website: [lccsc.org/election#june2](http://lccsc.org/election#june2) )

Yours in Islam,  
*ICCS Shura*