

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

COUNTY OF LANCASTER

C/A No.: 2022-CP-29-01637

Ikram Ullah Khan, Shahid Hussain Rahu,
Arshad Khan, Mohammad Masroor,
Masoom Shaik, Arafath Mohammad,
Suleman Waheed, Muhammad Mahmood,
Muhammad Ajmal, Zafer Mohamed,
Sarfaraz Khan, Abdul Azeez Mohammed,
Shaik Abdul, Mannan, Aslam Shaik,

Plaintiff,

**AFFIDAVIT OF
MARLON HANIFF**

v.

Mustapha Saoui, Jamal Zoubir, Farooq
Hussain, Marlon Haniff, Izzeldin Shibeika,
Mehdi Wajih, Ahmed Anakkar, Bouna
Cisse, Khaalis Ansaar, Abdul Rahman Shuli
(All in their Official Capacity as Members of
the Shura Governing Body of the Islamic
Community Center of South Charlotte),

Defendants.

Marlon Haniff, personally appearing before me, first being duly sworn, and over the age of eighteen, testifies as follows:

1. I am a member of The Islamic Community Center of South Charlotte (ICCSC), which is a "Masjid" or mosque that is located in Lancaster County. I am a member of the ICCSC's "Shura" or lay leadership of the Masjid.¹

¹ Plaintiff's contention that the ICCSC is not a "Masjid" or mosque is absurd. The ICCSC's property is actually held in trust by the North American Islamic Trust, Inc., which requires that the property be used "exclusively for Islamic religious, educational, and similar activities, all in furtherance of the Islamic faith and in compliance with Islamic Rules of Conduct and Code, applicable laws, rules and regulations of this Trust." (*See Declaration of Trust, attached as Exhibit "A"*).

2. Since the Defendants in the action filed their “Motion for Temporary Restraining Order and Injunction and Preliminary Injunction on March 1, 2024, the Plaintiffs have taken many of the actions that Defendants feared they would. As set forth below, they have harassed members of the Masjid who have attempted to pray, blocked the Imam Abdidahir Moalim and his appointees from leading prayers at the Masjid, and have attempted to supplant the services approved by the Imam.
3. Plaintiffs have bragged in an announcement publicized on their WhatsApp posting, published on March 10, 2024, that they have “taken next steps of not letting Sh. Abudahir [i.e., Imam Abdidahir Moalim] and Mustafa lead salah’s at ICCSC for last two days.” [sic] (*See WhatsApp Announcement, attached as Exhibit “B”*).
4. Videos from the Masjid’s video system have also captured sever misconduct and disruption on the part of the Plaintiffs. For instance, on March 7, 2024, two of the Plaintiffs, Suleman Waheed and Muhammad Ajmal, entered the Masjid and tore down a calendar posted in the Masjid regarding Ramadan events at the Masjid.² Plaintiffs also physically stopped the Defendants and other worshipers from praying at the Masjid on March 8, 2024, March 9, 2024, and March 10, 2024, as indicated in the video links referenced below.
5. On March 14, 2024, the Plaintiffs announced that they would conduct their so-called “Jummah” at the hour that our Imam has declared was the hour for the Jummah he would conduct. (*See Plaintiff’s Announcement, attached as Exhibit “D”*). At this time of the year, the Jummah begins no earlier than 1:30 p.m.

² Dropbox links to the videos referenced in this affidavit are being sent electronically to the Court and to counsel for Plaintiffs. In addition, I have identified and listed parties appearing in the videos in screens shots, as well as the chronology of these events. (*See Chronology attached as Exhibit “C”*).

6. Following Plaintiffs' announcement, on the same day, our Imam issued a statement to our community explaining why the Plaintiffs' plans were not just unauthorized but also "contrary to established Islamic guidelines" and that they "undermine[] the unity and cohesion of our community." (*See Announcement of Sheikh AbdiDahir, attached as Exhibit "E"*).
7. The Imam also stated that "the decision to keep the second Jumu'ah prayer at the same time as the customary one, given the daylight savings time change, is deeply concerning. It appears to be a deliberate attempt to disrupt the harmony of our community and sow seeds of discord." (*Exhibit "E"*).
8. These developments further belie Plaintiffs' baseless contention that the "case before this Court is one of corporate governance, not religious faith." (Plaintiffs' Response, p. 2).
9. Further the affiant sayeth not.

Marlon Haniff

Affirmed and Subscribed to this
15 day of March, 2024.

Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

My Commission Expires
Nov. 7, 2024

