



Dar Al-Farooq

دار الفاروق

983 – 17th Avenue Southeast, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414, U.S.A. – Telephone (612) 331-1234

July 31, 2011

To:
Mark Bernhardson, City Manager
City of Bloomington

Dear Mr. Bernhardson,

After doing some investigation, I discovered that one of our volunteers created a YouTube Channel for our project without seeking approval from our office. He downloaded the video from our website and uploaded it on YOUTUBE. The video itself was produced by me. Most of the images in the video were snapped with my camera. The song also was chosen by me to inspire people to be a part of something bigger than them. The video was meant as an inspirational marketing tool.

The comments that this gentleman made underneath the video about the Al Farooq project were posted out of some ignorance, some teenage excitement, but mostly misunderstanding about the details of the project. AFYFC is not going to be the largest community center for Muslims in the United States. There are many others that are much bigger.

We are planning to have a canteen at AFYFC (after acquiring necessary licenses from the city of Bloomington) for serving beverages and pastries. Because of linguistic inadequacy he translated the word 'canteen' to restaurant. He did not see the difference between the two. Well, both you and I know that there is world of difference between the two. The fact is that we are not planning to have any kind of restaurant at the new place.

Secondly, it is my understanding that we can run a **Restricted Clinic** for internal use, for the benefit of our members, including the elementary school children. We are not now ready to submit any proposals to the city of Bloomington for the establishment of a public clinic. We are definitely not equipped to do that yet. As I mentioned in my presentations that, when the time comes and we are ready, then we will start a discussion with the city of Bloomington about establishing a part time free community clinic for the benefit of the Bloomington neighbors. In my estimation this will take quite some years to achieve and then only if we are permitted to do so. .



Thirdly, the young man's remark about a girls High school was another amazing bit of misunderstanding. Actually we were debating about establishing a small **Tutoring Program for High School Home Schooled girls**, lagging behind in studies. I categorically state that we are not now and not in the future planning to have a High School of any kind. It was never on the table and never in my mind. We know that it is impossible to accommodate something of that magnitude in this building along with all the other projects that we have proposed. Also in no way do we have the means or qualified brain power and resources to put together a full time High School. It is simply not on the agenda. And yes I am perfectly aware of the different parking requirements for High Schools. It is something that I cannot even imagine, the feasibility of.

Lastly, we understand that Smith Park is a public park. This fact is not lost on us. My depiction of the park in the video is in no way a claim to exclusivity of the park for the Al Farooq community. In fact I included the surroundings of the Concordia building to enhance the presentation of the video. Also, I genuinely love the park grounds. It is a beautiful and peaceful place. I routinely drive there all the way from Minneapolis, just for a walk in the park. I assure the city of Bloomington that in no way do we wish for any member of our community to interfere with Concordia neighbors or the general public's use of the Smith Park. In fact we are looking forward to running into neighbors and other visitors to the park and making new friends. We expect our community members to respect the rights of the neighbors and non-AFYFC visitors to the park. We understand perfectly well and have accepted the shared use of certain areas of the Concordia grounds such as the jointly developed parking, tennis courts, basketball court, and football field. There is hardly any room for ambiguity about these things.

I look forward to calling Mr. Larry Lee (Community Development Director) to set up a meeting to go over these and any other issues that need to be clarified. I will also contact Mr. Quale (Parks & Rec. Manager) and set up a meeting with him as well.

Additionally, by this weekend we will post a copy of the Site Development Agreement on our website, so that all members of our community will for all future reference have a clear notion of what we are permitted to do at the Concordia site.

Thank you for your concern and kind consideration.

Hyder Aziz

Executive Director

Dar al Farooq Community Center