

FW: TSA FOIA of Islamic meeting at MSP airport

JW Info

Thu 6/16/2016 8:32 AM

To: Bill Marshall <BMarshall@JUDICIALWATCH.ORG>; Chris Farrell <CFarrell@JUDICIALWATCH.ORG>;

-----Original Message-----

From: William Rhoades [<mailto:andrew-rhoades@outlook.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 3:44 PM

To: JW Info

Subject: TSA FOIA of Islamic meeting at MSP airport

My name is Andrew Rhoades. I work for the TSA at Minneapolis. I have testified before the House Oversight & Government Reform committee and was featured in various NY Times articles about profiling at MSP.

I am the liaison to the Somali community.

Please give me a call at 651-399-8296.

Sincerely,

Andrew Rhoades

Sent from my iPhone

From: Community Engagement
Sent: Thursday, December 18, 2014 1:57 PM
To: Community Engagement
Cc: Farah, Abdirizak; FAIRFAX, CHOLE; Rhoades, Drew
Subject: REMINDER: DHS Minneapolis St. Paul International Airport Tour 12.18.14

Dear Colleague,

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) would like to remind you of the Minneapolis St. Paul International Airport tour taking place **today, Thursday, December 18, 2014 from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM**, as part of our ongoing efforts to engage with community leaders and members. During the event, participants will be provided with a step-by-step tour of our operations, designed to offer a greater understanding of airport processes and procedures. Throughout the event, we will discuss traveler expectations, rights, and resources. Participants will also have the opportunity to ask questions of representatives from DHS, U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Transportation Security Administration.

The tour will begin at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, in **Terminal 1-Lindbergh (4300 Glumack Drive, St. Paul, MN 55111) at Baggage Claim 2**. Participants will be met by airport officials and will be led into the secure area of the airport.

This event is invitational only. Please note that this event will be closed to the press and participants will not be allowed to take pictures or video recordings during the event.

Thank you for your interest, support, and partnership and we look forward to seeing you later on today.

Sincerely,



**Homeland
Security**

Abdirizak Farah
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Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
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**Office of Field Operations
Chicago Field Office
December 10, 2014**

ACTION REQUIRED: Information Only

ISSUE: The Somali community in Minneapolis, MN has expressed concern about the interactions they have at Minneapolis-St. Paul (MSP) International Airport with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) employees and Transportation Security Administration (TSA) employees.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: CBP recognizes that positive relationships with all stakeholders are an important part of effectively achieving the agency's mission. To establish an open dialogue with the Somali community in Minneapolis, CBP has committed to a series of community engagement events over the next few months. CBP is also closely coordinating with other federal partners on these events.

DATA SUMMARY:

Based on Fiscal Year 2014 data and taking into account reasons for secondary referrals, CBP is not conducting a disproportionate number of secondary exams on Somali passengers. While the percentage of passengers using Somali documents processed through secondary may seem inordinately high, more than two-thirds of these referrals were immigration related where CBP provided a service to the referred individuals by processing paperwork that would allow them to immigrate to the U.S. or working with legal permanent residents that had lost their documents. An additional percentage of the referrals were due to data matches, where further engagement was needed to determine if the passenger was a concern. Data matches occur more frequently in the Somali community due to similar names and dates of birth. In addition, there are currently no complaints from Somali passengers in MSP's system.

ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: On October 16, 2014, Mr. William Ferrara and Ms. Chole Fairfax from the Chicago Field Office participated in a meeting with the U.S. Attorney for the District of Minnesota, Mr. Andrew M. Luger and his Community Relations Director, Ms. Angela LaTour (*also a former CBP official*). During the meeting, the U.S. Attorney explained that he has been heavily engaged with the Somali community in Minneapolis and throughout his engagement, he has heard a number of concerns regarding the treatment of Somali community members at the airport. He has made several public statements regarding his plans to address this issue. As a reflection of the agency's transparency, CBP provided the U.S. Attorney with an in-depth discussion of CBP processes and a tour of MSP. In the meeting, CBP also committed to providing similar information directly to local community members as part of planned community engagement activities.

To address existing concerns and to establish an open dialogue between CBP and the Somali community in Minneapolis, CBP will be engaging in a series of activities from November 2014 - January 2015. An overview of these activities can be found below:

- **Roundtable Discussion and Community Resilience Exercise**
 - Date: November 7, 2014
 - Coordinated by: Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) (*Abdirizak Farah*)
 - Overview: DHS CRCL has been coordinating meetings in select communities across the U.S. to pull local community leaders and law enforcement officials together to discuss issues related to the importance of community engagement, the protection of civil rights and civil liberties, and the threat of violent extremism and the dangers of recruitment of foreign fighters to areas of conflict around the world such as Syria, Iraq, and Somalia. CRCL is heavily engaged in Minneapolis and has held a number of roundtable discussions in the city over the last several years.

The roundtable took place on November 7, 2014; the Secretary of Homeland Security, the U.S. Attorney, representatives from the Federal Bureau of Investigations, and CBP officials were present for this discussion. During the event, several parties expressed concern with the way members of the Somali community were treated at MSP.
 - Outcome: Greater community understanding of current challenges and threats regarding violent extremism. Established contacts between community members and various law enforcement offices so that groups can begin to work together to collectively address issues raised at the event.
- **Lunch with local Somali Community Leaders**
 - Date: November 20, 2014
 - Coordinated by: Community Relations Director of U.S. Attorney for Minnesota (*Angela LaTour*) and CBP Chicago Field Office (*Chole Fairfax*)
 - Overview: The U.S. Attorney for Minnesota regularly conducts lunch and dinner meetings with local Somali community leaders and has invited other federal partners to join him for select meetings.

CBP and TSA participated in a lunch on November 20, 2014 with approximately 15 Somali imams from the local community. Both CBP and TSA provided an overview of basic processes, highlighting traveler rights and resources. This dialogue was followed by a question and answer session. There were several questions on profiling and why CBP officers may ask certain questions (i.e. What cities did you visit on your trip? Where did you stay while in county ABC?). CBP explained that these types of questions are used by CBP officers to determine if a passenger presents a concern that would warrant additional dialogue. CBP also reiterated that throughout the entire inspection process, all passengers deserve to be treated in a professional manner and with respect.
 - Outcome(s): Initial introduction to a number of community leaders and an open forum for discussion.
- **Airport Tour for Somali Community Members**
 - Date: December 18, 2014
 - Coordinated by: CBP Chicago Field Office (*Chi Tsang, Pete Manno, and Chole Fairfax*)
 - Overview: CBP will provide an in-depth, on-site tour and discussion of CBP's airport operations, including both inbound and outbound passenger processing.

Additionally, CBP has discussed signage with the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC), which operates MSP. Currently, there are no signs in Somali or Arabic, so CBP will use this opportunity to discuss whether or not signage would be beneficial with members of the community. CBP has invited TSA to co-host the tour, so attendees would have a chance to see both areas during the same visit.

- Anticipated Outcome(s): Dispelling of myths surrounding DHS (CBP and TSA) operations at the airport.
- **Cultural Exchange and Educational Brief for Somali Community Members**
 - Date: January 2015
 - Coordinated by: CBP Chicago Field Office (*Chole Fairfax and Joe Kolb*); both the U.S. Attorney's office and CRCL will be asked to attend the event.
 - Overview: CBP will provide an overarching brief on the agency's mission and practices. CBP will then engage in a question and answer session where community members can inquire about specific practices. CBP will use the opportunity to solicit feedback from the Somali community for any suggested modifications to practices that would allow for operations to be more culturally sensitive, but would not hinder the agency's mission. If individual or case specific concerns are raised in the open forum, CBP will explain the process to addressing them and commit to discussing items of this nature after the larger discussion has concluded. CBP will explain the agency's Business Transformation Initiatives, to include Global Entry (GE) and Automated Passenger Kiosks. If possible, CBP will also coordinate a mobile enrollment event for GE along with the briefing. At the conclusion of the event, CBP will also use the opportunity to invite to participate in a tour of MSP the following month. Those who would like to participate in the tour will be asked to provide their information for vetting purposes.
 - Anticipated Outcome(s): A greater understanding in the community of CBP's mission, operations, and process.
- **Recruiting at Somali Community Events**
 - Date: December and January 2014
 - Coordinated by: CBP Chicago Field Office (*Anye Whyte*)
 - Overview: CBP will attend various Somali community events to discuss the agency's mission and the benefits of working within the agency.
 - Anticipated Outcome(s): A diverse workforce that reflects the myriad of passengers CBP processes daily.
- **Musters for CBP Officers at MSP on Lessons Learned**
 - Date: February-March 2015
 - Coordinated by: CBP Chicago Field Office (*Chi Tsang, Pete Manno*)
 - Overview: CBP will take any lessons learned and cultural elements that may warrant training for CBP employees from the community engagement activities (i.e. Culture Exchange/Community Brief and Airport Tour) and provide the information to CBP employees at MSP in a series of musters.
 - Anticipated Outcome(s): All CBP officials engaging with passengers at MSP are doing so in a professional manner that achieves the agency's mission effectively and is culturally sensitive to the traveling public.