



Council on American-Islamic Relations

CAIR Office in Maryland

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December 4, 2024

Chief David Mitchell
Chief of Police & Director of Public Safety
University of Maryland Police Department
Pocomoke Building (007)
7569 Baltimore Ave
College Park, MD 20742

RE: Safety Concerns, Inquiry Following UMD Flag Football Tournament Incident

Dear Chief Mitchell:

On behalf of the Maryland Office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and civil liberties organization, I am writing to formally request an investigation into institutional processes that may have contributed to a physical altercation at a flag football tournament that left at least two students physically injured, and to seek policy changes in order to avoid such an incident from happening again.

Background:

On October 12, 2024, multiple University of Maryland students, who are Muslim, reported being physically assaulted during a flag football tournament hosted by the Helping Hands club on campus. It is noted on file that the Helping Hands club reserved the field to host this event, which was open to outside groups and universities. Despite ample notice and the following of procedures to host this tournament, there was reportedly no security present during the event. The reportedly unprovoked physical altercation led to Muslim students sustaining serious injuries which, in at least one case, resulted in the student losing consciousness and sustaining a concussion.

A visible security presence could have served as a deterrent and prevented this altercation from escalating. This troubling incident has raised concerns that University of Maryland is not prioritizing the well-being of its minority students, nor taking sufficient measures to protect them from threats or harm. The school must provide a safe and supportive environment for its diverse student body, free from harassment and discrimination. The failure of an institution in protecting its students from such reported attacks undermines trust placed in the university's ability to promote student safety.

Considering concerns raised following this incident, CAIR is formally requesting the following:

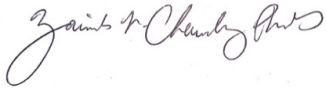
1. CAIR is seeking a copy of UMD Campus Police's current policies and protocols for deploying security on campus to activities and events, especially those open to the public.
2. We are also requesting a meeting with you to discuss how to improve campus safety for students amidst a spike in Islamophobia and anti-Palestinian bigotry.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your response.

Washington D.C.

Alabama Arizona California Colorado Connecticut Florida Georgia Illinois Iowa Kansas Kentucky Maryland Massachusetts
Michigan Minnesota Missouri New Jersey New York Ohio Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Texas Washington State

Regards,



Zainab Chaudry, Pharm.D.
Director, CAIR Office in Maryland
Council on American-Islamic Relations

cc: Officer Raphael Moss

Washington D.C.

Alabama Arizona California Colorado Connecticut Florida Georgia Illinois Iowa Kansas Kentucky Maryland Massachusetts
Michigan Minnesota Missouri New Jersey New York Ohio Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Texas Washington State