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Chicago Center for Cultural Connections  
Community Renewal Society



March 12, 2012

Mr. Dan Cronin  
DuPage County Board Chairman  
421 N. County Farm Rd.  
Wheaton, IL 60187

Dear Chairman Cronin and DuPage County Board Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago (CRLMC) in reference to the current ruling that the Muslim Educational and Cultural Center of America (MECCA) be denied permission to place upon its facility a dome and minaret. Like the steeple on top of many Christian Churches, or the dome on top of those of the Eastern Orthodox Tradition, MECCA seeks to express the Muslim's faith through two important elements of their religion, and in keeping with the history and practice of their faith

Our Council has followed the arduous zoning process of MECCA over these many months, and we commend the DuPage County Board for reaching agreements that appear to have met the legitimate desires of this mosque to construct its facilities.

However, it is the judgment of the leaders of the widely diverse faith communities that make up CRLMC that to challenge MECCA's desire to express their faith in the manner now sought is not only inconsistent with other decisions of the DuPage County Board but a threat to the people of all faiths and religious traditions. It is furthermore on its face a clear denial of the religious liberties guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution and widely enjoyed in DuPage County and across our land. There is no legal or legitimate reason to deny MECCA's petition.

The free expression of religion is the precious right our nation bestows on the people of all faiths and traditions. The Council of Religious Leaders affirms and will defend that right for all. We urge acceptance by the DuPage County Board of MECCA's proposal symbolically and faithfully to express their religious convictions.

Respectfully yours,

Rev. Paul H. Rutgers, Co-Executive Director, CRLMC

cc: Rev. Don Senior, CRLMC President