

August 22, 2016

The Honorable Dewey F. Bartlett
Mayor of the City of Tulsa
City Hall at One Technology Center
175 E. 2nd St.
Tulsa, OK 74103

Dear Mayor Bartlett:

The undersigned advocacy, civil rights, community, and faith-based groups are deeply saddened and troubled by the tragic murder of an Arab American man on August 12th, 2016. We write to express deep concern about this incident, and to urge you to direct law enforcement officials to thoroughly investigate all possible motives for this heinous crime.

According to media reports and direct accounts from family members, Khalid Jabara was shot in front of his home by neighbor Stanley Vernon Majors. Mr. Majors was continuously brought to law enforcement's attention for harassing and threatening the Jabara family for years. On the afternoon of August 12th, Mr. Jabara was frightened after he learned that Mr. Majors, a felon and known danger, possessed a gun. Mr. Jabara called his mother warning her not to come home because he was worried about what might happen and also informed the police that Mr. Majors was armed. After responding to Mr. Jabara's call, the Tulsa Police Department (TPD) felt nothing could be done and left the scene. Minutes later, Mr. Majors shot and killed Mr. Jabara on the front porch of the Jabara family home.

After her brother's death, Khalid's sister, Victoria Jabara Williams, wrote that her "family lived in fear of [Mr. Majors] and his hatred for years." According to Ms. Jabara Williams, Mr. Majors had repeatedly attacked their ethnicity and perceived religion calling them racist names such as "dirty Arabs" and "filthy Lebanese," as well as "Aye-rabs" and "Mooslems." In 2013, Mr. Jabara's mother was granted a protective order against Mr. Majors after she reported that he harassed her and is "very racist towards foreigners and blacks." As a result, Mr. Majors was prohibited from possessing firearms for the following five years and from going near Mrs. Jabara or their home. Mr. Majors violated the protective order in 2014 after Mrs. Jabara reported to police that he yelled racial slurs at her and threatened to kill her.

In 2015, Mr. Majors ran over Mrs. Jabara with his car causing a broken shoulder, collapsed lung, broken ankle, head trauma, and numerous other injuries. Despite being charged with assault and battery with a deadly weapon, Mr. Majors was released from custody after posting bond without any monitoring while awaiting trial. This was against the pleas of the Jabara family and prosecutor that Mr. Majors was a danger to society and should remain in custody. Less than four months after Mr. Majors was released on bond, he shot and killed Khalid Jabara.

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The Jabara family did everything they possibly could to protect themselves from Mr. Majors. As Mr. Jabara's sister stated, Mr. Majors was someone they "continuously brought to law enforcement's attention" and yet he somehow was able to assault Mrs. Jabara and just months later, take Mr. Jabara's life.

At a time of increased anti-Arab and anti-Muslim bigotry, we have also seen hate crimes against Arabs and Muslims occur at alarming rates across the country. Law enforcement officials must take these types of threats and crimes seriously. We were very disappointed to hear statements by TPD officials minimizing the role hatred and bigotry may have played in this crime. Specifically, TPD Sergeant Dave Walker said in an interview to national press, "this is an ongoing dispute with neighbors. Yeah, there is hate, but I don't think the only reason is because they are Middle Eastern." By making this statement, the TPD undermined community confidence that law enforcement officials would conduct an exhaustive and objective investigation.

In recent weeks and months, the Muslim community in Oklahoma has reported numerous instances of violence, including:

- A man [attacked and stabbed](#) a gas station store clerk in Savanna, calling the victim a "terrorist."
- A [vandal targeted a Muslim-owned grocery store](#) in Oklahoma City with hateful anti-Muslim graffiti.

We respectfully urge you to direct the Tulsa Police Department to investigate the heinous murder of Khalid Jabara objectively, thoroughly, and efficiently to ensure that justice is served for the victim and his family.

Thank you for your consideration and attention. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact Nadia Aziz by phone at 202-429-9210 or email at naziz@aaiusa.org or Madihha Ahussain by phone at 415-692-4932 or email at madihha@muslimadvocates.org.

Sincerely,

ACCESS

ACLU of Oklahoma

All Souls Unitarian Church

American Muslim Advisory Council (AMAC)

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee

Arab American Institute

Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO (APALA)

Association of Muslim American Lawyers

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Bend the Arc: A Jewish Partnership for Justice
Bethany Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Center for New Community
College Hill Presbyterian Church
Council on American-Islamic Relations, Oklahoma Chapter
EmergeUSA
Fellowship Congregational UCC
Foundation for Ethnic Understanding (FFEU)
Global Alliance Interfaith Networks
Global Justice Institute
Greater Tulsa Hispanic Affairs Commission
HeadStrong: Student Advocates for Mental Health
Immigrant Rights Project, University of Tulsa College of Law
Interfaith Alliance Foundation of Oklahoma
Interfaith Center of NY
KARAMAH: Muslim Women Lawyers for Human Rights
Metropolitan Community Churches
Muslim Advocates
Muslim Anti-Racism Collaborative
Muslim Justice League
Muslim Public Affairs Council
NAACP
National Asian Pacific American Bar Association
National Black Justice Coalition
National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)
National Council of Churches, USA
National Council of Jewish Women
National LGBTQ Task Force
New Evangelical Partnership for the Common Good
Office of Social Justice, Christian Reformed Church in North America
Oklahoma Center for Community and Justice
Oklahomans for Equality
The Parish Church of St Jerome
Phillips Theological Seminary
Pride at TU
Progressive Congress Action Fund
Racial Justice Initiative of the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference of the United Church of
Christ
Shoulder to Shoulder
The Sikh Coalition
Sonoma-Midtown Neighborhood Association
South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)
South Asian Network
SuzieIQ Learning Lab, LLC

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TULSA - The United League for Social Action

Tulsa Interfaith Alliance

United Campus Ministry at TU

cc: Mr. Steve Kunzweiler
Tulsa County District Attorney
Tulsa County Courthouse
500 South Denver Avenue Suite 900
Tulsa, OK 74103

Ms. Vanita Gupta
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division
U.S. Department of Justice