

December 28, 2017

DELIVERED VIA CERTIFIED MAIL AND EMAIL

Ike Leggett, Montgomery County Executive
Executive Office Building
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor
Rockville, MD 20850
ike.leggett@montgomerycountymd.gov

James Stowe, BRAVE Ombudsman
Montgomery County Department of Human Rights
21 Maryland Avenue, 330
Rockville, MD 20850
james.stowe@montgomerycountymd.gov

Dear Messrs. Leggett and Stowe,

Muslim Advocates is a national civil rights organization dedicated to protecting the rights of all Americans to live and worship free from discrimination. Our work includes monitoring and assessing Countering Violent Extremism (“CVE”) programs. In our work in communities around the country, we have found that far too often these programs not only fail to provide any meaningful public safety benefit, but they also unfairly target and discriminate against Muslim communities.

We write in regards to one such CVE program operating in Montgomery County: The World Organization for Resource Development and Education, also known as WORDE. Founded by Ms. Hedieh Mirahmadi, this program has raised serious concerns, particularly from members of Montgomery County’s Muslim community who feel targeted and marginalized by its implementation. Muslim Advocates has been working to better understand the scope and effect of WORDE’s efforts—including its development of BRAVE, which is also known as the Montgomery County Model—and affiliated programs on the local community, including through public records requests (copies of which we have attached for your reference).

We understand that Mr. Leggett’s special assistant recently met with a number of individuals to discuss WORDE in Montgomery County. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with both of you in-person and continue that conversation—including better understanding your thoughts about WORDE and sharing ours—in the hopes of addressing the concerns of Montgomery County and its citizens as effectively as possible.

Please let us know your availability and we would be happy to set up a meeting at your convenience. We have enclosed with this letter the related Maryland Public Information Act requests we have submitted to the Montgomery County Police Department and Office of Community Partnerships as well as the Freedom of Information Act request we have sent to the Department of Justice.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at the contact information below; you may also reach my colleague Nimra Azmi at nimra@muslimadvocates.org or (202) 897-2564. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Juvaria Khan
Staff Attorney
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(202) 897-1896

Enclosures