



MAJLIS ASH-SHURA OF THE DELAWARE VALLEY

OCTOBER 2025/1447 (AH) E-NEWSLETTER VOL.3 NO.34



ABOUT THE MAJLIS

In 1990 a group of Philadelphia Area imams and other community stakeholders started the Majlis Ash-Shura of the Delaware Valley, to perform the prophetic sunnah of *shura* (consultation). It's organized as an independent 501 (c)(3) non-profit in the state of Pennsylvania. 'Majlis Ash-Shura' can be translated to mean the consultative body, council, or meeting. Aside from being a consultative body, the Majlis attempts to facilitate Muslims fulfilling their obligations, share best

practices for the area's Masjids, and improve the quality of life for Muslims. From sighting every lunar month beginning to intervening in conflicts, to organizing visitors for the sick Muslims in facilities, the Majlis has performed an array of services. We invite all Muslims to sincerely work in whatever capacity they can, with their respective talent, expertise, and/or interest.



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HILAAL (CRESCENT MOON/START OF A LUNAR MONTH)

In accordance with the *sunnah* of naked-eye sighting of the *hilaal* (or a lunar month expiring due to having 30 days) and the *fard kifaayah* (communal obligation) of keeping track of time, as per the Majlis' moon sighting committee, *Wednesday September 24, 2025, was first day of Rabi Al-Thani 1447 AH. The hilal was not sighted on Monday the 22nd of September. Therefore, Rabi Al-Awwal had 30 days.*



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Qur'an mentions:

There shall be no hostility ('udwaan), except against an oppressor. (Qur'an 2:193)



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Aishah (as), the Prophet's (ﷺ) wife, said that he:

did not strike a servant or a woman, and he never struck anything with his hand. (Sahih Muslim)

The record is clear, any abuse or violence towards anyone, outside of self-defense and some other exceptions, is prohibited (*haram*). Verbal, sexual, financial, emotional, and physical, are all included. For Muslims, this shouldn't be a slogan, but a practice to ensure safety primarily in our homes.

We'll never know with certainty the exact statistics on domestic violence, especially within Muslim homes. But we can say with a high level of confidence that every group of people have an element of domestic violence. Be they rich, foreign born, or born in this country.

All of us can do something, for instance: remind each other of the Prophetic standard; avoid argumentation; avoid intoxicants; spread the

salaams; overlook each other faults (when appropriate); and navigate our passing thoughts (*khawaatir*), specifically the negative ones, by suppressing or redirecting them to something positive. The list goes on with actionable items that can curb domestic violence.

Some years ago, Imams of the Majlis Ash-Shura of the Delaware Valley took drastic measures to formally address domestic violence. Will you help to stop domestic violence in your sphere?

As a reminder, guardians should do a thorough background check on potential husbands and wives.

If you have any issues concerning domestic violence, Muslims should contact a local Imam or local scholar for spiritual guidance and resolution, in addition to their other appropriate support sources.



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(From right to left: Kyle A. Tribble, Eli Muttaqi Thomas, Na'imah Muttalib, Hope Barnes, Sabriya Jubilee)

MISTER KYLE TRIBBLE

(Note: The following submission mentions fatal violence and may be upsetting)

The following recollection is in memoriam of Mr. Kyle Tribble. Kyle was; yes, was, the Director of Culture and Community Engagement for the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for the School District of Philadelphia. A young man who described himself as, “Just a kid from North Philly”; Kyle attained a position of leadership in America’s 6th largest school district, not long after turning 30 years old.

I can only recall being in the same space as Mr. Tribble two or three times. From those few interactions, and based on what co-workers have said about him, it was clear that Kyle Tribble did more than he had to do. It’s called under-promising and over-delivering.

I first met Kyle when he partnered with the Majlis’ Education Committee at a professional development workshop for educators in March of 2024. He stepped up, and stepped in when our original date was cancelled, and the director of his department was unable to be



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present on the snow-date. Kyle was scheduled to speak for 5-10 minutes, and was expected to stay for only 30 minutes, max. He spoke for about 20 minutes, and stayed for the entire 3 hours of our event. He sat at a round-table with Imam Farid of our organization and other leaders, and helped us strategize on how to improve conditions for students. On a cold rainy Saturday, in March, on short notice.

After that event, I corresponded with him a few times by email, and I only saw him briefly a couple more times when I stopped by their School District office on some official business. He always came across as somewhat quiet, relatable, and very appreciative, like when we gave their office a gift basket filled with items from local Muslim-owned businesses. I later heard about how much he enjoyed the bean pies.

Although it was a little over a year since I went to their office and presented them with that gift basket, it seemed like much less time when I was stunned by the news of Kyle Tribble's death. Sadly, it was another young Black man; another "kid from North Philly", killed by gunfire. One thing that was not so typical was that it happened in Milford, DE. The accused shooter, a 42 year-old man, was arrested a

short time later. Other than that, I have not learned any details of this tragic event.

On Thursday, July 24, 2025, the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion of the School District of Philadelphia held an event where family, friends, and co-workers of Kyle could gather and reflect on their time with him. It was asked that attendees bring books to donate for his 2 year-old daughter. I donated 3 books, which I inscribed with a brief message, which might one day provide context for his daughter.

With all of the sadness that we adults and teens have experienced due to gun violence, I ask that we work to re-establish the simple notions of fairness and justice amongst ourselves, and especially amongst our youth. Notions as simple as, don't do to others what you would not want don't to you; and that if you wrongfully take something from someone else, then you owe the equivalent in return. The practice of such principles would help to address the ailments that afflict our communities, and to decrease the painful incidents of violence which are far too common.



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Lastly, I ask that we begin to do more to help the children, like Kyle's daughter, who are left without parents, whom they will only know through the memories of others.

E. Muttaqi Thomas

Chairman of the Education Committee,

Majlis ash Shura of Delaware Valley



SHURA (CONSULTATION)

Consultation or *shura* is an integral part of Islam to say the least. *Shura's* Arabic root is *shaara*, which means to extract honey from the hive. This is profound because we know that dealing with many personalities can be a very delicate matter, fraught with many



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emotional outbursts and ill feelings. In any setting where people's opinions are weighed, disputation can arise. Which is to be expected when backgrounds, experiences, expertise, and so forth are different.

Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) was instructed in the Qur'aan, in surah 3, verse 159, to "*consult them in all matters of public concern.*" Especially in America, with no Islamic government, it's imperative that Muslim leaders and people of good distinction practice consultation with each other to improve the quality of life for Muslims, and by extension, all Americans.

Every Muslim may agree with the concept of *shura* but many may disagree with whom should *shura* include with regards to community affairs. Imams of masjids, Islamic scholars, and Muslims that have distinguished themselves in a righteous manner are included. For there has to be a group of Muslims tied to the Muslim populace in a given area, focusing on the *furud kifaayah* (communal obligations) and branching from there. Such as: determining the Islamic dates (moon

sighting); performing *janaaiz* (or *janazahs*); visiting the sick; warning other Muslims of danger; establishing *masaajid* (*masjids*) and maintaining them; providing necessary skills training; growing and distributing food; etc.

A group within the larger group looking out for the whole group is essential from a spiritual and economic standpoint. This may happen through programs, advice, or alliances. By the permission of Allah (ﷻ) the Majlis Ash-Shura of the Delaware Valley has been practicing *shura* once a month, without interruption for over 30 years. Muslims from all backgrounds have attended, as well as non-Muslims to observe, and politicians trying to get their message out.

Will you join us in this Prophetic practice of *shura*? At the very least, we ask that you continue to make sincere *du'aa* that the Majlis as a group, have *tawfeeq* (divine ability) to do the necessary work. And that Allah (ﷻ) remedy the affairs of the Muslims. That He guides all



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of us to that which is right. And that He gives all of us *'aafiyah* (well being) in this world and the next. Aameen, Aameen, Aameen!

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- 5) Private transportation from Medina to Mekka 5 stars hotel, breakfast open buffet, 4 nights
- 6) Imam will come to your room to take you to Haram Asharif and lead Umrah manasick
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Boston Br. Youssef: 7743864994
Worcester Sister Fatima: 5087236597

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ANCHOR STORES

If you have a physical location for your business, you know the location and hence, the foot traffic is essential to attracting customers. And whether your business is service or product oriented, it matters

who you are near. Anchor stores or large retail stores that are well-known can help drive your business. Even though the current trend is for anchor stores to be in strip malls rather than enclosed malls, the link still exists. Once people go to the larger stores, they are more likely to check out a smaller retailer.

Ideally as Muslims, we shouldn't attempt to link our businesses to stores that profit mainly off of selling *haram* products or services. Therefore, advisingly, if you are looking for a good place to put your retail business, try to find an area or strip mall with an anchor store. And hopefully, with Allah's (ﷻ) blessing, you'll see the benefits.

Interestingly, Subway is the largest food chain in the U.S. with 20,378 chains.



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The following are the top retail stores in *Pennsylvania*, with the number of locations they have in the state:¹

Dunkin - 657

Subway - 622

McDonalds - 475

New Jersey:

Dunkin - 865

Starbucks - 357

McDonalds - 252

Delaware:

Dunkin - 70

Starbucks - 45

McDonalds - 37

1

https://www.scrapehero.com/location-reports/page/3/?country=USA&reports=state_category_report



TELEGRAM POLL

In September, the Majlis' Telegram group were anonymously asked:

Of the following, what is currently the biggest tribulation for most Muslim youth?

1. *The ills of social media - 18%*
2. *Lack of living mentors/family structure - 0%*
3. *Haram music - 0%*



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4. *Recreational intoxicants* - 0%
5. *Lack of Islamic Knowledge and practice* - **9%**
6. *Poor circle of friends* - 0%
7. *A combination of the above* - **73%**
8. *None of the above* - 0%



THE MAJLIS ASH-SHURA IN ACTION *(below is a partial list of the actions of the Majlis)*

2025

- In January, the education committee hosted their 2nd annual Ramadan and Beyond event. Assisting educators and admins



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on handling pertinent concerns as they relate to Muslim students.

- In February, the Majlis' Education committee co-sponsored an essay contest
 - In March, the Education Committee hosted an *iftar* (fast breaking) in the banquet hall of Masjid Hidayah in Philadelphia. Targeting those directly involved in education.
- In March, the Majlis purchased a full page ad congratulating The International League of Muslim Women
- In March, we changed our address to 4414 Germantown Ave. ,3rd flr, suite C Phila., PA 19140
- In March, the Majlis entered a coalition with Universal Muslim Business Association & Nicetown Community Development Corporation
- In June, the Economic Development Committee hosted its 1st annual fundraising bowling party at V&S Elmwood Lanes in Philadelphia, and profited money for the Majlis

- In August, the Education Committee started their own Facebook page

- In September, U.M.M.A.H. of the Majlis, provided training for youth in North Philly. Focusing on the 4 main elements of gun safety: never play with guns; always assume a gun is loaded; muzzle control; and never placing your fingers on a trigger, unless you are ready to shoot (if applicable).

May Allah (ﷻ) accept our efforts!



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DU 'AA FOR THE ILL, OPPRESSED, & RECENTLY DECEASED

Please don't forget our brothers and sisters who are going through tribulations (*masaaib*), whether with their health, wealth, familial relationships, physical security, death of a loved one, and so on.

May Allah give those whom He recently called back, jannatul firdaus.

May Allah bless the sick amongst us with well being ('aafiyah) in this life and the next. May Allah ease their suffering, and grant them healing (shifaa) with a speedy recovery. May their sickness/illness be an expiation (kaffaarah) for their sins.

May Allah give relief to all people who are suffering under unjust rulers, governments, or any oppressive entity.

May Allah remedy the affairs of the Muslims, may Allah turn away the evil of the harmful.

Aameen, Aameen, Aameen

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT THE MAJLIS?

Please make *du'aa* for all those working to please Allah (ﷻ). To support us financially, please send whatever you can:

Zelle: Majlis Ash Shuraa of Philadelphia 215.651.0818



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SUBMITTING CONTENT

If you are interested in adding to the Majlis' newsletter, please be aware of the following rules:

- A. All content must be submitted by the 15th of every month. For instance, if you would like for your submission to be in February's edition, submit content by January 15th.
- B. All content is subject to grammatical and punctual editing. As well as apparent accuracy and suitability for The Majlis' mission & objectives. Further, we reserve the right to postpone your submission for a future edition.
- C. All information should be cited appropriately.
- D. Keep in mind that The Majlis Ash-Shura is rooted in the people of the sunnah and the community (*Ahlus-Sunnah wal-jamaa'ah*). Therefore, we will not showcase any messages rooted in any other religious affiliation, or messages overtly or covertly disparaging the Qur'an, any of the Prophets & Messengers, or any of the Prophet's Companions (may Allah be pleased with them).

NEWSLETTER INQUIRIES, CORRECTIONS, AND SUBMISSIONS CAN BE SENT TO EITHER:

Yasir Uqdah: news@phillymajlis.com

or

Maryam Woods: maryam.s.woods@gmail.com

MAJLIS CONTACT INFORMATION

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(445) 220-0598

Website: www.phillymajlis.com

Email: info@phillymajlis.com

How to stay in touch with The Majlis?

Subscribe to this newsletter by going to our website and submitting your email address and name. You can also join us in-person at our next general monthly meeting, All this information can be found on our website mentioned above. And don't forget to follow us on



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The Majlis' general Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61563258563617>

The Education Committee's specific Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61576574596477>

And check out our Youtube page:

<https://www.youtube.com/@MajlisDelVal>

PHILADELPHIA MAYOR'S OFFICE OF MUSLIM ENGAGEMENT (OME)

Stay in contact with the OME. The office's main objective is to assist in providing needed resources to the greater Muslim community in Philadelphia.

Contact: Dr. Quaiser Abdullah Ph.D (Director)

email: muslim.engage@phila.gov

Address: City Hall 112, Philadelphia, PA 19107

The views and opinions expressed throughout this newsletter are not necessarily the views and/or opinions of the entire Majlis Ash-Shura, its members, or affiliates.

Any quotes from the Quran or Prophet Muhammad (SAWS) are paraphrased in the English translation. Not to be confused with expert translations or explanations.