



MAJLIS ASH-SHURA OF THE DELAWARE VALLEY

JULY 2025/1447 (AH) E-NEWSLETTER VOL.3 NO.31



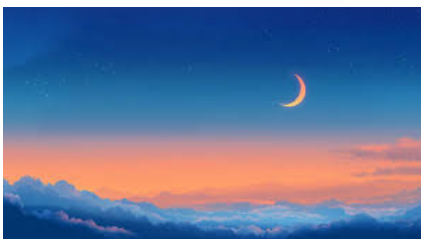
ABOUT THE MAJLIS

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 and share best

practices for the area's Masjids. 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*, there was no sighting of the Hilal on Wednesday night (June 25th). Therefore we are completing 30 days of Dhul Hijjah and Friday, June 27, 2025 will be the 1st of Muharram 1447 AH.



BOWLING PARTY AT V & S ELMWOOD LANES

On June 28, 2025, the Economic Development Committee of the Majlis hosted its 1st annual fundraising bowling party in southwest Philly.

I want to thank committee members, vendors, family and friends for your participation in our 1st annual bowling party. It was a success in many ways. We raised some funds, had fun, and received support from



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8 masaajid, including 10 Imams. This is only the beginning of more to come towards comprehensively improving the Muslim community.

Rafiq Diya Al-Fareed
Economic Development Committee Chair
economic@phillymajlis.com





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DC33 STRIKE

District Council 33, the union that represents Philadelphia municipal workers have been on strike for several days and counting, demanding better pay and more. As the strike continues, trash continues to mount throughout the city, libraries are closed, and more city services are impacted. There are sites where residents can take their garbage, but many



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are simply dumping their waste wherever it's convenient. Which could be due to the inability to drive to the approved sites, laziness, or flagrant lack of care.

The union is made-up of about 9,000 workers with a reported median income of \$46,000. However, some reports mention \$46k as the average salary, which the two (median vs average) are different, yet inconsequential in the grand scheme of the issue.

The union is demanding a 20% increase in pay over the mayor's 4 year tenure, in which they already received 5%, thus 15% more to go. The mayor is offering no more than 13% over her 4 year term, which includes the 5% that the union already received.

Mediation is a type of alternative dispute resolution, along with arbitration. The former is where a third party facilitates all sides to reach an agreement, as the mediator plays referee and scribe, acting omni-partial (interested in both sides being satisfied). Moreover, the disputing parties

will decide the outcome, not the mediator. The sessions usually ends with either an agreement; postponement of negotiations; or a cancellation of negotiations. With arbitration, the third party decides after hearing all sides of the dispute.

Questions to ponder:

- Would it be better if this dispute between DC33 and the City is handled by an omni-partial third party, instead of just the disputing parties at loggerheads?
- Even though there was an extension to the previous contract, should've both sides sought remedy well prior to July 1 2025, to avoid services being halted? And if there was no resolution back then, seek outside assistance?
- Who will give in? As with negotiations, parties usually start off with a higher ask than they are willing to take. One of the parties will concede something, it's just a matter of when.



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A list and map of temporary residential trash drop-off sites can be found here: <https://www.phila.gov/documents/temporary-waste-drop-off-sites/>



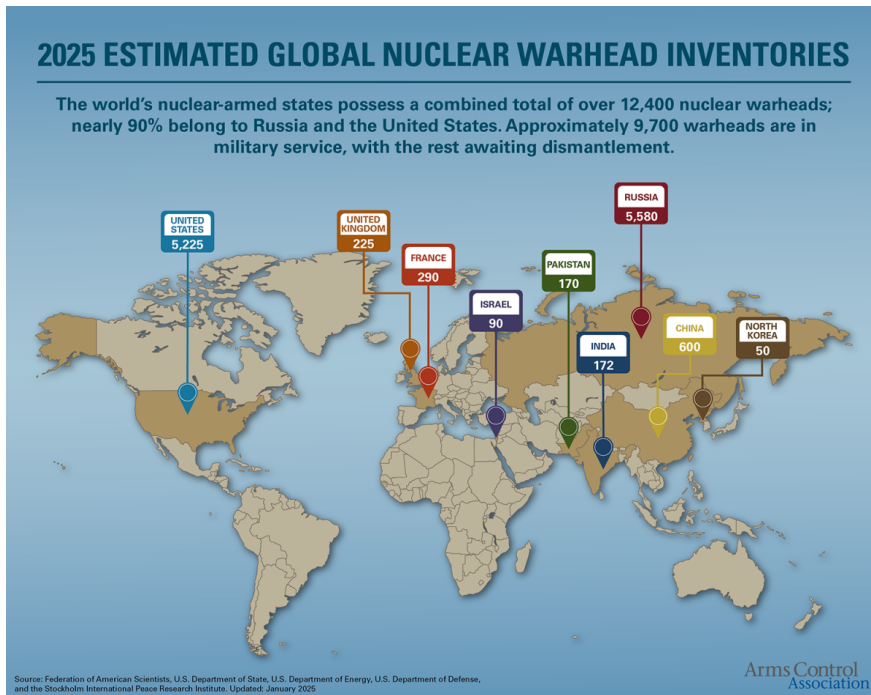
NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THE WORLD

With the on-going conflict between Israel and Iran, it's interesting to note, since some believe that Iran was close to nuclear warheads, which countries have them and how many.

The top three nations with nuclear warheads are:
Russia with 5,580 - U.S. with 5,225 - and China with 600



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Nuclear weapons are just one type of weapon of mass destruction, as is made clear with the following information:

A WMD is defined by U.S. law (18 U.S.C. § 2332a) as any of the following:

- *a destructive device, such as an explosive or incendiary bomb, rocket, or grenade*
- *a weapon that is designed to cause death or serious injury through toxic or poisonous chemicals*
- *a weapon that contains a biological agent or toxin*
- *a weapon that is designed to release dangerous levels of radiation or radioactivity*

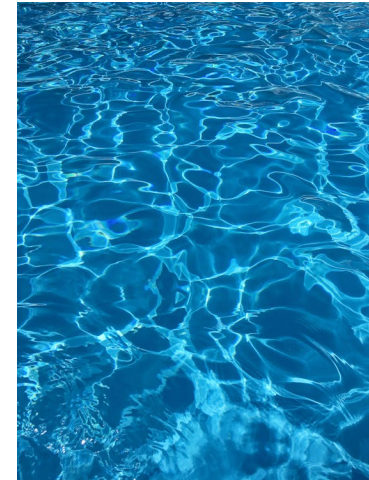
*WMD often refers to all **chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosive** (CBRNE) weapon modalities. These weapons can have a large-scale impact on people, property, or infrastructure.¹*

¹ <https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/wmd>



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Thus, there are roughly five types of WMD's. And with regards to nuclear weapons, according to the graph above, there's only one Muslim-dominated country with such WMD's, which is Pakistan.



AL-HAWD الحوض

Amongst the multitude of things we believe in as Muslims, is the belief in *al-hawd*, which can be translated to mean the pool or basin. And with all the *fitnah* (conflict, confusion, strife, etc.) in the world because of what humans has done, it's important to be reminded of



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something very beautiful in the future, in addition to figuring out how to navigate and help those in need in this world.

The *hawd* is a special body of water for Prophet Muhammad (saws) and at least some of his followers. Which is whiter than milk and sweeter than honey, flowing over pearls. Those who drink from it will never be thirsty again. *Al-hawd* is a branch from *Al-kawthar* (a large body of water that will feed *al-hawd*, or it can be simply defined as ‘the abundant goodness in this life and the next’), which is also the title of chapter 108 in the Qur’aan.

There are perks to being an excellent Muslim, in this life and in the afterlife, which one is that you’ll be able to drink from the basin. And those averse to the sunnah of Prophet Muhammad (saws), when they die, will not be able to benefit from *al-hawd*.

May Allah (swt) give us the drive and ability to follow His Messenger’s sunnah to the best of our ability, and make us die as people who willingly submit to Him.



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START TRAINING! MARCHING DRILLS



**BEGINNING
SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 2025
10:00AM – 12:00PM**

**2ND & 4TH SATURDAYS EACH MONTH
414 EAST PENN STREET PHILADELPHIA**

**AGES 18-35
MALES & FEMALES
TRAINING FOR UMMAH
SHIELD SECURITY**

Info: Contact ummahShield@yahoo.com

**UMMAH SHIELD IS THE SECURITY DIVISION OF
THE MAJLIS ASH SHURA OF PHILADELPHIA**



BUSINESS SUMMIT & EXPO: EMPOWERING GROWTH AND INNOVATION



Join the Mayor's Office of Muslim Engagement and the Department of Commerce Mayor's Business Action Team's three-day summit experience focused on entrepreneurship, empowerment and equity for businesses across the city. Connect with City leaders, explore business growth opportunities, and gain practical tools for success. All businesses are welcome!

July 18 - July 20, 2025

**Howard Gittis Student Center
Temple University
1755 N 13th Street,
Philadelphia, PA 19122**



Small Business Summit/Expo 2025 Session Topics
July 18 - 20, Temple University (1755 N 13th Street)



Plenary & Panel Sessions

- American Muslim History in Philadelphia and the Role of Muslim Businesses
- Financial Growth Through Faith & Inclusivity
- City & State Services: Creating Pathways for Small Business Expansion
- Human Resources: Training & Development
- Empowering Muslim Women in Business
- Future-Proofing Muslim Businesses & Building Inclusive Leadership
- Women Leadership: Strategies for Success

FireSide Chats

- Doing Business in the City of Philadelphia
- Challenges & Opportunities for Muslim Entrepreneurs in Philadelphia
- Understanding Halal Financing Models
- Establishing a Successful (Halal) Food Truck Business in Philadelphia

Workshop Sessions

- Expense Tracking & Management in the Service Industry
- Accounting Practices in the Retail Industry
- Key Financial & Operational Management in the Construction Industry
- Financial Literacy & Accessing Capital for Small Businesses (incl. insight for Muslim Businesses)
- Wealth Management
- Choosing the Right Legal Structure for your Business
- Community Development Corporation Services & Support
- Commerce Foundational and Financial Support Programs
- What Business Success Looks Like: Branding & Marketing in Diverse Markets
- Creating Effective Business Strategies for Sustainable Growth
- Smart Strategies for Building Digitally Resilient Businesses
- Leveraging Technology for Business Innovation
- Organizational Alignment and Measurements of Success



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WHO IS BLACK?

Zohran Mamdani just pulled off a major political upset. Nothing many political analysts predicted. The Muslim candidate for Mayor of New York City, beat everyone in the NYC primary in June of this year. He received 43.5% of the vote, which corresponded to 432,305 votes,

beating Andrew Cuomo, the heavy favorite, who had 361,840 votes.² May Allah bless him with success.

With that being said, one of the criticisms of Mamdani is that he checked-off on a college application that he was Asian and Black or African American. This information was published by the New York Times.

There are multiple ways to look at this:

- a. He identified with black people and the black diaspora by checking 'Black or African American,' which is rare, and a very bold thing, to identify oneself with those who have been historically marginalized in America, to be with those whom he sees himself as.

2

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/6/25/who-is-zohran-mamdani-new-york-likely-next-mayor#:~:text=Was%20Mamdani's%20win%20expected?.and%20mailboxes%20across%20the%20city.>



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- b. He identified himself as Black or African American to obtain some type of benefit (i.e., admission due to affirmative action, he may have believed), and has zero interest in being identified as such in his normal daily interactions in society.
- c. A combination of the above.
- d. None of the above, and some other reason.

Whatever the case, it begs the question, who is black? As we know black, white, etc., is a description of someone, not a biological marker. Meaning, people are different, but we can't look at someone's blood, for example, and tell that they're black. Many non-black people say 'I don't see color!' But that's like saying you don't see height, weight, or gender. More than likely, many people say that to show that they're not racist. Color, used as a description is nothing to be ashamed of using in a non-derogatory manner. As often used in writings from the past, '*aswad jiddan*' or 'exceedingly black,' was used to describe some historical figures. Even the *hajr aswad* (black stone) is often read and heard as a description.

There are many black (or dark complexion) people in India (where Mamdani's family is from but he was born in Uganda), Pakistan, Australia, Iran, and Yemen to name a few. The black people in the previously mentioned countries of course, aren't African American, but many of them have a dark complexion, oftentimes darker than some African Americans; therefore, they can be deemed 'black.'

Whatever Mamdani's intentions really were, Allah knows best. But keep in mind, you can be black (dark complexion), as a description, but not be an African American. And you can be an African American but have a light complexion, but still be considered black. Basically, institutionalized racism screwed everything up!



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TELEGRAM (SOCIAL MEDIA)

In June, the Majlis' Telegram group was anonymously asked:

With temperatures in the Philly Area being high for a stretch of days, how much does it impact you going to the masjid?

1. *It doesn't impact me at all* - 62%
2. *I don't go when it's this hot!* - 13%
3. *I go more, because the masjid I go to is a cooling center (officially or unofficially)* - 0%
4. *I go to a different masjid when it's this hot* - 13%
5. *None of the above* - 12%



THE MAJLIS ASH-SHURA IN ACTION

(below is a partial list of the actions of the Majlis)

2022

- We revamped our by-laws
- We revamped our website
- The Eid committee hosted a fundraiser for the Eid at Kingsessing Rec center



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- We started a Telegram (social media) group, which is open to any Muslim
- The Da'wah committee partnered with Masjid Al-Madinah (in Upper Darby, Pa) for a joint event
- We collaborated with Black Muslim Men United for a Better Philadelphia, rallying and marching in the northwest section of Philadelphia, along with local police, calling for action against gun violence
- We condensed the length of our monthly general meetings

2023

- We obtained a corporate office
 - We interviewed 8 influential community members
 - We started a monthly e-newsletter
- The Education committee hosted our 1st Islamic School Fair & Expo @ The Philly School District
 - We started an Economic Development Committee

- We helped to sponsor the first Halal Food Festival in Phoenixville, Pa
- We published a book titled: "*Sex Education in Islam*," available on Amazon
- We interviewed all the viable candidates for Philly Mayor in 2023, firmly requesting an Office of Islamic Affairs, which in 2024 came into fruition partly due to our efforts
- The Majlis' Economic Development Committee started to solicit current and/or future community projects with a commercial component and that are serious, in-order to enable the Muslim-community to invest collectively and benefit collectively in a sustainable and beneficial project.

2024

- We partnered with CAIR to have a medical professional, in case of an emergency, for their 2024 banquet in Springfield, Pa



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- We hosted three town halls (Philly Masjid, Masjid Muhammad, & Makkah Masjid), in order to hear public concerns and to solicit sincere assistance
 - We started a YouTube page
- The Majlis' Economic Development Committee researched and presented the Israeli-owned date (the fruit) companies
- The Education committee hosted our 2nd Islamic School Fair & Expo @ The Philly School District in July. The video is available on our YouTube page
 - In July, we started a new Facebook page
- In August, we hosted a zoom presentation on *Volunteering with Ihsaan (Proficiency)*, which was recorded and is available on YouTube
- In September, we interviewed sister Najah Siddiq, one of the founders and organizers of the Philly Halal Food Festival.
- In November, we held a meeting and brainstorming session in conjunction with the Philadelphia Mayor's Office of Muslim

Engagement at City Hall. Attempting to connect many of the Muslim leaders in Philadelphia

- In December, the Women's Committee of the Majlis held a Sister's Circle via phone conference, in order to help create more unity within the Muslim community
 - Imam Farid Rasool, President of the Majlis, gave a talk at AICP in Philadelphia, during their winter *Dawrah*

2025

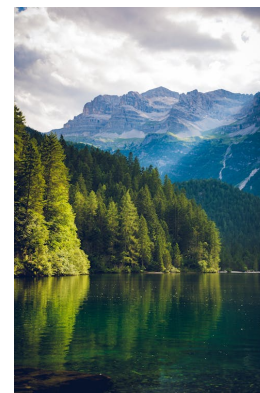
- In January, the education committee hosted their 2nd annual Ramadan and Beyond event. Assisting educators and admins on handling pertinent concerns as they relate to Muslim students.
- In February, the Majlis' Education committee co-sponsored an essay contest
 - In March, the Education Committee hosted an *iftar* (fast breaking) in the banquet hall of Masjid Hidayah in Philadelphia. Targeting those directly involved in education.



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- 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

May Allah (swt) accept our efforts



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



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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.

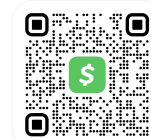
Aameen, Aameen, Aameen

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT THE MAJLIS?

For those interested in financially supporting the Majlis' efforts, no matter the amount you can afford, you can send it through cashapp. *Shukran, Jazaakullah!* Nonetheless, please make *du'aa* for all those working to please Allah (swt).

Cashtag: \$MajlisAshShuraa

[https://cash.app/\\$MajlisAshShuraa](https://cash.app/$MajlisAshShuraa)



Majlis Ash Shuraa
Scan to pay \$MajlisAshShuraa

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.



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- 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

Majlis Ash-Shura of the Delaware Valley
4414 Germantown Ave., 3rd flr - Suite C Philadelphia PA 19140
(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

Facebook:

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

And check out our Youtube page:

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



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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.



*Prophet Muhammad (saws) said , “The best of fasts after the month of Ramadan are in the Month of Allah, which you call **Muharram**. And the best prayer after the obligatory prayer is the night prayer. (Sahih Muslim)*