

June 27, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Islamic Society of Greater Houston (ISGH) President Rodwan Saleh and Harris County Sheriff Tommy Thomas met on Thursday, June 26, 2008 and discussed the issue of negative and derogatory emails that has generated a reaction of anger and shock among the various minorities including the Muslims. Mr. Saleh conveyed to Sheriff Thomas the feelings of dismay and disappointment deeply felt by the Muslim Community of Greater Houston.

Sheriff Thomas assured Mr. Saleh that these emails do not reflect the official policy of any discriminatory practices or conduct by Harris County officials at any levels and that Sheriff's office serves Harris County residents without any bias of color, race and religion.

Mr. Rodwan Saleh offered a program of sensitivity training of Harris County officials on matters of religion, culture and social norms of Islam and Muslims. A sustained effort to educate and remove any prejudices in the Harris County department will be launched.

Mr. Saleh also reminded Sheriff Thomas that the Muslim community of Houston has enjoyed a level of amiable relationship with the county and city officials and appreciated the reciprocity.