



TOMMY THOMAS
Sheriff of Harris County
1200 Baker Street
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002-1206

June 26, 2008

Dear Friends:

I deeply regret the pain and insult that has been inflicted upon the Muslim community by members of the Harris County Sheriff's Office through the receipt and/or forwarding of emails that are of an offensive nature. Such emails do not reflect the policies or prevailing attitudes of the Sheriff's Office, and are not in keeping with our efforts to establish an attitude of acceptance and sensitivity towards all citizens, regardless of ethnicity, religion, background, etc. As Sheriff, I do not condone expressions of hate or divisiveness, and I condemn any comments or actions on the part of employees that are patently offensive or may be perceived as discriminatory.

While in office, I have worked to further positive relations between the Sheriff's Office and the diverse communities we serve, and I will continue to do so. I have reached out to Rodwan Saleh, President of the Islamic Society of Greater Houston, seeking guidance on ways that the Sheriff's Office can improve our dialogue with the Muslim community, and on ways that we can better address their concerns. I am encouraged by the warm and positive reception I received.

On behalf of the entire Harris County Sheriff's Office, I extend my sincerest apologies for this regrettable incident, and I look forward to working with Mr. Saleh and the Muslim community to improve our relations and to foster better understanding.

Sincerely,

Tommy Thomas, Sheriff
Harris County



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