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January 25, 2011

The Honorable Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor of the City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Bloomberg:

According to recent press reports in the Village Voice and Salon.com the New York Police Department (NYPD) has incorporated the defamatory and grossly inaccurate film "The Third Jihad," purporting to be a serious "documentary," as a part of the NYPD's curriculum on counter-terrorism. By this letter I am calling upon you and the NYPD to remove this fallacious smear from use in New York's counter-terrorism training classes, identify and address how this material was selected, and to heal the rupture caused between the NYPD and New York's Muslim community.

As one might hope, the purpose of such training course is to provide New York's first responders and particularly the police department with the most reliable and accurate information about potential threats faced by the City of New York (City). Unfortunately, as seen on [<http://www.thethirdjihad.com>], the materials provided vilify an entire faith, including hundreds of thousands Muslim New Yorkers—many of whom serve with honor in the NYPD and other first responder entities.

The facts of this incident raise serious questions about the counter-terrorism training process in the NYPD. Such questions include, but are not limited to: (i) what is the process for designing the NYPD's counter-terrorism training program, and who selects the content used in teaching counter-terrorism doctrine and procedure(s) in the NYPD?; (ii) Was this film selected as part of a NYPD selection procedure?; (iii) How was this film procured and paid for, and was the NYPD's usual procurement process used?

Separate and apart from the procurement and content selection process, I find it disturbing that Commissioner Raymond Kelly was interviewed for the film, conferring an appearance of legitimacy onto this scurrilous propaganda, and potentially confusing viewers as to the official policy of the NYPD concerning these matters. (I note also in passing, that the website prominently displays Commissioner Kelly as an interviewee.)

In conclusion, I ask you to consider what measures might be implemented to ensure that an incident like this does not happen again. I have no doubt regarding your good faith in this matter and your willingness, as always, to stand up for those residents of the City who are unjustly scapegoated or vilified. Therefore, I ask you to work with New York's Muslim community to put this incident in the past where it belongs, and to arrive at a more effective and less divisive training course for the NYPD.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Parker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

KEVIN S. PARKER

CC: Raymond Kelly