

**Connecticut Hate Crimes Advisory Council  
December 10, 2021 – 2:15 pm ET (Virtual)  
Meeting Minutes**

**1. Welcome and Call to Order** (Hon. Doug Lavine and Amy Lin Meyerson, Co-Chairs)

A meeting of the Connecticut Hate Crimes Advisory Council was held on Friday, December 10, 2021. The meeting convened at 2:15 p.m. EDT. Co-Chairs Amy Lin Meyerson and Hon. Douglas Lavine presided. Luke Reynolds served as Secretary.

**2. Roll Call** (Judge Lavine)

Council members present were: Amy Lin Meyerson, Doug Lavine, Richard Colangelo, Rabbi Farbman, Andrew Feinstein, Christopher Ferace, Steven Hernandez, Diana Lombardi, Tamara Lanier, Gary MacNamara, Duane Lovello, Robin McHaelen, John Merz, Fernando Muniz, Aida Monsoor, MD Rahman, Precious Price, Jonathan Slifka, Tashun Bowden-Lewis, James Rovella, Sharad Samy, Cecil Thomas, Leonard Rodriguez, and Rashmi Chandra.

Also in attendance were: Ted Hakey, Dr. Qureshi, Hallie Tingstad, Rebecca Oestreicher, Devon Fray, Abigail Willauer, and Luke Reynolds.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Gary MacNamara and seconded by Rich Colangelo to approve the minutes from the meeting on November 12, 2021. Motion passed.

**4. Presentation from Ted Hakey & Dr. Qureshi**

**Ted Hakey** – Ted discussed how after the military he started to see and consider all Muslims to be terrorists. He explained how he was fed misinformation on social media and developed a hatred towards Muslims. After the Parris Attacks, Ted decided to shoot with his rifle twenty rounds at a Mosque in Meriden, near his home. Four of the rounds hit the Mosque and the FBI, soon after, arrested Ted and he served six months in federal prison. Ted explained that he became viewed by his neighbors as what he hated most: a terrorist. While this was happening, members and leaders of the Mosque were willing to meet with Ted multiple times while he was in prison, they accepted his apology at a Friday prayer service, and invited him into their community. Ted soon learned more about Muslim principles and realized how mistaken he was and regretful of his decision. Ted claimed that “hate is one of those things that sneaks up on you when you least expect it and if that congregation did not forgive me, there is a good chance that I would have never changed. But because they did forgive me, my hate was erased and it was instantaneous.”

**Dr. Qureshi** – Discussed why members of the Mosque forgave Ted. Dr. Qureshi stated that when it was discovered that the Mosque was shot the main focus was to reach out to the

person and forgive them. The community's forgiveness was guided by the conduct of Muhammad and the Quran, as well as the motto: love for all and hatred for none. The members of the Mosque even wrote a statement to the judge asking that the charges be dropped.

**Tamara Lanier** – this reconciliation process is something that could be part of a diversionary program - the ability to encounter differences.

In response, **Luke Reynolds** shared that Connecticut has a diversionary program established by statute set up for hate crime offenders with seven referrals this past year. Luke suggested that there could be a way to incorporate restorative justice or the reconciliation of differences into this diversionary program with consenting victims and offenders of hate crimes.

### **5. Subcommittees Reports**

The co-chairs are asking for full, detailed reports next time the Council meets so that it does not only receive a truncated version today with the limited time the Council has left.

### **6. Website**

Amy Lin Meyerson will be circulating a version of the Hate Crimes Advisory Council website to members for comment and any changes.

### **5. Next Meeting**

The next Hate Crimes Advisory Council Meeting is scheduled for January 14th at 2:15 p.m. ET.

### **6. Adjournment**

The meeting on December 10, 2021, adjourned at 3:35 p.m. EDT.