



In the name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful

## Muslim Center of Middlesex County

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### MCMC Ramadan and Shawwal Moon Sighting Policy and Communication Plan

#### Start and End of Ramadan:

Insha'Allah, MCMC will rely on moon sighting to determine the start and end of Ramadan. We will rely on reliable moon sighting in the continental US and/or Caribbean, and/or reliable moon sighting anywhere east of the US where there is a possibility of moon sighting. If the moon is sighted in the east of the US, we will be seeking news of reliable sighting of the moon from more than once place. Reliable sighting of the moon east of US will be the criteria, and not the start of Ramadan in those areas.

#### Communication Plan:

##### **Before the End of Shaban:**

1. Insha'Allah, Imam Raouf Zaman will announce the MCMC policy couple of times a week during Maghrib and/or Isha salah, and during the Welcome Ramadan program. Imam Raouf will also mention the other ways (listed below) the community members can access the policy and the communication plan.
2. MCMC Administrator will post this policy and the communication plan on the notice boards in front of the office and on sister's side.
3. This policy and the communication plan will be shared, via email, with the brothers and sisters who have opted in to receive email communication from MCMC.
4. This policy and the communication plan will be posted on the MCMC website.

##### **On the 29<sup>th</sup> of Shaban, and 29<sup>th</sup> of Ramadan - Possible Announcement Times:**

<b>After Salat Al-Maghrib</b>	Insha'Allah, Imam Raouf Zaman and other members of the Religious Affairs Committee will be actively seeking reliable moon sighting information from various sources across the globe. The Religious Affairs Committee will meet 30 minutes before Maghrib salah, and if there are reliable moon sighting reports from the east of US, an announcement will be made after the Maghrib Salah.
<b>45 minutes after Salat Al-Maghrib</b>	If there are no reliable sightings in the east of US, the Religious Affairs Committee will continue seeking the reliable moon sighting information, and will reconvene 30 minutes after the Maghrib salah, and if there are reliable moon sighting reports from the east of US, Eastern US or Caribbean, an announcement will be made 45 minutes after the Maghrib Salah.
<b>After Salat Al-Isha</b>	If there are no reliable sightings from the east of US, Eastern US and Caribbean, the Religious Affairs Committee will continue seeking the reliable moon sighting information and will reconvene 15 minutes before Isha salah, and if there are reliable moon sighting reports from the east of US, Eastern/Central US, or Caribbean, an announcement will be made after the Isha Salah.
<b>30 minutes after Salat Al-Isha</b>	If there are no reliable sightings from the east of US, Eastern/Central US and Caribbean, the Religious Affairs Committee will continue seeking the reliable moon sighting information and will reconvene 15 minutes after the Isha salah, and if there are reliable moon sighting reports from the east of US, Eastern/Central/Western US, or Caribbean, an announcement will be made after 30 minutes after Isha Salah. <b>On the 29<sup>th</sup> of Shaban, if there are no reliable sightings by this time. Taraweeh will be canceled.</b>
<b>Later</b>	If there are no reliable sightings from the east of US, Eastern/Central/Western US, and Caribbean, the Religious Affairs Committee will continue seeking the reliable moon sighting information and will reconvene at 11:30 pm to make the final decision and the decision will be communicated to the community via website and a recording on the MCMC voicemail.