



Assalamu 'Alaykum Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is with grave spirits that we mourn the departed souls of our 51 brothers and sisters in Christchurch, New Zealand. May Allah have mercy upon our deceased, may He grant patience and strength to their families, and may He protect our communities and masajid. Ameen.

In times of darkness it is okay for us to be afraid, but it should not lead us to live in fear. Tragic events like this should remind us not to take our lives for granted, to return to our faith, and to ensure that we are taking the highest measures of precautions to protect our community.

For the last few days, the Clear Lake Islamic Center has been strategizing a plan of action on how to ensure the safety of our community at all times. Below are some of the action steps already set in motion:

1. I myself have been in contact with the Department of Homeland Security and the FBI who have stated definitively that there is no indication of threat against our community. Even so, we will take extra precautions to be alert and prepared at all times.
2. We have requested for more law enforcement officers to be present and patrolling at our masjid. An off-duty officer will always be present and visible during Jumu'ah on Friday. Additionally, we will be requesting officers to be present at major masjid events.
3. We are working on increasing the number of staff and community representatives that are trained in case of an active shooting situation (several members have already been trained). Furthermore, an event will also be organized to educate the general community on what to do in case of active shooting, fire, or any kind of emergency situation.
4. Our admin office has a direct line in case an active shooting situation does occur (after calling 9-1-1). This number will ensure the fastest response of first responders. May Allah protect our community from any such case. Ameen.
5. The Fire Department and Webster Police Department have inspected our masjid facility and gave us feedback on how to improve our security in case of an emergency. This feedback has been implemented and we are continuously working on improving our security measures.
6. As part of an initiative that was in place even before the attack, we are in the process of upgrading the masjid's alarm and surveillance systems.
7. We have received questions about masjid members who own firearms and how they can assist keeping the masjid safe. We are aware that multiple members of our community carry a firearm with them. Even though this may add a sense of security to some people, this is their personal responsibility and the masjid is not responsible for any related actions taken by those individuals.
8. We encourage all members of the community to utilize the multitude of resources available to educate themselves and their families on how to respond to these types of situations. Please follow the link below for one particular reference that we consider very beneficial: <https://www.dhs.gov/cisa/active-shooter-workshop-participant>

In addition, we want to convey to you the amount of support and love that we have received daily from our neighbors in faith communities and organizations. We have been receiving letters, flowers, and individuals coming to share their support. On your behalf, we have sent them a thank you card with flowers. Remember, our community is not alone.

Safety is our number one priority at the Clear Lake Islamic Center and we are constantly working to ensure the protection of our community, families, and children. If you have any suggestions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to myself, Sh. Ibrahim or Sh. Kamal. May Allah protect, guide, and have mercy upon this Ummah and upon our masjid. Ameen.

Shaykh Waleed Basyouni, President and Imam of Clear Lake Islamic Center