

# ISLAMIC ORGANIZATION of NORTH AMERICA

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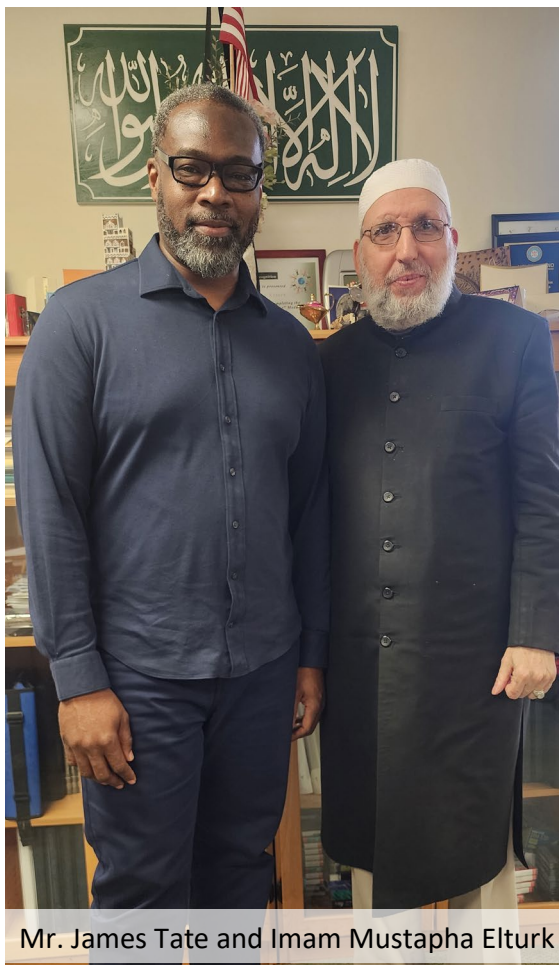
## **IONA Hosts City Council President Pro Tem, Mr. James Tate, and Council's Chief of Staff Keyontay Humphries**

[Warren] – Yesterday, Imam Mustapha Elturk, Ameer of IONA and Director of Operations, Naveed Ashraf, hosted Mr. James Tate, Detroit City Council President Pro Tem, along with the council's chief of staff Keyontay Humphries.

The introduction between Imam Elturk and Councilman Tate was facilitated by Rev. Stancy Adams, Chair of the InterFaith Leadership Council of Metropolitan Detroit (IFLC), where Imam Elturk previously served as treasurer for several years.

Councilman Tate, who has been faithfully serving the city of Detroit as a council member since 2009, expressed a keen interest in gaining insights from a Muslim leader regarding the events and conflicts in Gaza. It was noted that he had already engaged with Jewish leaders to understand their perspectives.

During the meeting, Imam Elturk shared a comprehensive slide presentation originally prepared for a lecture at his mosque, titled "The Plight of the Palestinians." The presentation delved into the historical background of the Zionist movement, the Balfour Declaration in 1917, the British mandate, the Nakba of 1948, the 1967 Six-Day War with Arab states, and the first and second Intifadas, providing a historical context for the recent crisis in the Holy Land. Emphasizing that the crisis has deep roots spanning decades, Imam Elturk highlighted occupation and oppression as the root cause of the ongoing violence.



Mr. James Tate and Imam Mustapha Elturk

Mr. Tate inquired about the slogan "from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free," seeking clarification on its various interpretations. Imam Elturk offered insights into the diverse perspectives associated with the slogan including the concept of a one democratic state.

Following weeks of deliberation, the Detroit City Council ultimately passed a resolution supporting a ceasefire in Gaza and the immediate release of all hostages. Notably, two out of the nine-member council, Council Pro Temp James Tate and At-Large Member Coleman A. Young II dissented. Mr. Tate preferred not to vote on matters he felt less informed about.

The meeting, conducted over lunch, provided an educational platform for Mr. Tate to gain a holistic understanding of the Jewish and Muslim perspectives on the conflict, empowering him to make more informed decisions in the future.

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IONA's mission is to transform its members and help transform the surrounding communities to righteous, God-fearing people, who collectively strive for the highest moral standard and constantly seek forgiveness from our Creator to earn His pleasure. We seek His compassion and mercy in this life and in the hereafter. We rejuvenate our soul through internal struggle and spiritual exercise in worship of our creator God. The strength of our belief in God gives us the courage to establish good and forbid evil, thus promoting a system of justice for all mankind.