



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ASSEMBLY SELECT COMMITTEE ON HATE CRIMES HOSTS SUCCESSFUL HEARING
WITH MUSLIM COMMUNITY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT**

(FREMONT, CA) – The Assembly Select Committee on Hate Crimes, chaired by Assemblymember Kansen Chu (D- San Jose), held an informational hearing with the Muslim community and law enforcement representatives to discuss the pervasive rise in hate incidents and hate crimes in California.

In attendance were Senator Bob Wieckowski (D-Fremont), Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O’Malley, and Santa Clara County Deputy District Attorney Erin West. Additional panelists included Shuja Ahmed, President of the Muslim Americans for Peace and Prosperity, Dr. Hatem Bazian, Chair of the Northern California Islamic Council, Zahra Billoo, SF Bay Area Chapter -Council on American-Islamic Relations, Moina Shaiq, Founder of the Meet a Muslim Community Conversations Program, and Samina Sundas, Founding Executive Director of the American Muslim Voice Foundation. Testimonies were also given by Newark Police Chief Mike Carroll, Fremont Police Chief Richard Lucero, Milpitas Police Captain Henry Kwong, San Jose Police Chief Shawny Williams, and Santa Clara Assistant Chief Dan Winter.

“I am grateful for those who were able to join me today to discuss how we can work together to combat hate, address attacks against the Muslim community, and promote kindness and acceptance,” said Chu. “Recent statistics show that hate crimes against Muslims are up 91% compared to 2016. This is unacceptable and I applaud our local law enforcement officers for their dedication to protecting all members of our community. We need to continue to raise awareness and ensure no one has to live in fear. There is no room for hate in this country and attacks against any individual based on birthplace, religion, sexual orientation, gender, or disability will not be tolerated.”

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) found that 2017 might be the worst year yet since the group started tracking hate crimes and hate incidents against the Muslims in 2013. From April 1 to June 30 this year, CAIR received 946 reports of potential hate incidents. Consequently, its staff determined that close to half of those incidents reported were linked to anti-Muslim bias. The full report can be found by visiting <https://www.cair.com/images/pdf/Civil-Rights-Data-Quarter-Two-Update-Anti-Muslim-Bias-Incidents-April--June-2017.pdf>.



From left to right – Nancy Le, Field Rep., Office of Asm. Chu, Senator Bob Wieckowski, Assemblymember Kansen Chu, Samina Sundas, Founding Exe. Dir., American Muslim Voice Foundation, Shuja Ahmed, President, Muslim Americans for Peace and Prosperity, Dr. Hatem Bazian, Chair, Northern California Islamic Council, Zahra Billoo, Exe.Dir., SF Bay Area Chapter -Council on American-Islamic Relations, Moina Shaiq, Founder, Meet a Muslim Community Conversations Program.

Website for Select Committee: assembly.ca.gov/hatecrimes

Website for Assemblymember Chu: assembly.ca.gov/chu

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