

United States Department of Homeland Security

Faith-Based Security Advisory Council

CHARTER

1. Official Designation:

Faith-Based Security Advisory Council (FBSAC)

2. Authority:

This charter renews the FBSAC under the authority of 6, *United States Code* (U.S.C.), § 451 (originally approved on July 26, 2022, and filed with Congress on July 26, 2022). This discretionary committee is established in accordance with and operates under the provisions of the *Federal Advisory Committee Act* (FACA), 5, U.S.C., § 10.

3. Objectives and Scope of Activities:

The FBSAC shall provide organizationally independent, strategic, timely, specific, and actionable advice to the Secretary through the Assistant Secretary for the Office of Partnership and Engagement (OPE), who serves as the DHS Faith-Based Organizations Security Coordinator on security and preparedness matters related to places of worship, faith communities, and faith-based organizations. The FBSAC serves strictly as an advisory body with the purpose of providing advice upon the request of the Secretary. FBSAC advice may include:

- a. ***Strategy and Policy***: Recommendations for the development and implementation of strategies and policies that will further the Department's ability to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from acts of targeted violence or terrorism, major disasters, cyberattacks, or other threats or emergencies against places of worship, faith communities, and faith-based organizations.
- b. ***Information-sharing and Coordination***: Recommendations for improving coordination and sharing of threat and security-related information and resources with and between places of worship, faith-based organizations non-profit entities, and the federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, and private sector partners. This includes, but is not limited to, recommendations on proposed technical assistance and other resources that include the perspectives of a wide range of faith communities represented in a culturally competent manner, and address potential barriers, such as language access, and ways to build and rebuild relationships of trust between federal government and faith communities.
- c. ***Programs and Initiatives***: Recommendations for the development and implementation of specific programs or initiatives to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from acts of targeted violence or terrorism, major disasters,

cyberattacks, or other threats or emergencies while preserving individual privacy and civil rights and civil liberties.

- d. ***Evaluation and Feedback:*** Recommendations for the efficiency and effectiveness of the Department's policies, strategies, and programs (including grant programs) intended to support the security and preparedness of places of worship, faith communities, and faith-based organizations. This includes, but is not limited to, providing feedback on how DHS can address the needs of faith communities against evolving and future threats.

4. Descriptions of Duties:

The duties of the FBSAC are solely advisory in nature.

5. Official to Whom the Council Reports:

The FBSAC reports to the Secretary of Homeland Security through the DHS Faith-Based Organizations Security Coordinator.

6. Agency Responsible for Providing Necessary Support:

DHS is responsible for providing financial and administrative support to the FBSAC. Within DHS, OPE provides this support.

7. Estimated Cost, Compensation, and Staff Support:

Estimated annual operating costs for the FBSAC are \$570,000, which includes travel and per diem, and other administrative expenses, and two (2) Full-Time Equivalent employees to support the Council.

8. Designated Federal Officer:

A full-time employee of DHS shall be appointed by the Secretary as the FBSAC Designated Federal Officer (DFO). The DFO or the Alternate DFO shall approve or convene FBSAC meetings; approve meeting agendas; attend all Council and subcommittee meetings; adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest; and chair meetings in the absence of the Chair or Vice Chair, or as directed by the Secretary.

9. Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings:

Meetings of the FBSAC are held at the approval of the Secretary or DHS Faith-Based Organizations Security Coordinator, but typically take place quarterly. Council meetings are open to the public unless a determination that the meeting should be closed is made by the appropriate DHS officials in accordance with DHS policy and directives, and with 5, U.S.C., § 552b(c), *The Sunshine Act*.

10. Duration:

Continuing.

11. Termination:

This charter is in effect for two years from the date it is filed with Congress unless sooner terminated. The charter may be renewed at the end of this two-year period in accordance with Section 14 of FACA.

12. Member Composition:

The FBSAC shall be composed of not more than 30 members who are appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of, the Secretary.

Members are appointed as representative members, except for the member from the Department of Justice or Federal Bureau of Investigation who is appointed as a non-voting ex officio member. Members will not serve as Special Government Employees as defined in 18 U.S.C., § 202(a).

Appointments will be made without regard to political affiliation. Appointments of representative members are personal to the member and cannot be transferred to another individual or other employees of the member's organization of employment.

In order for the Department to fully leverage broad-ranging experience and education, the FBSAC must be diverse with regard to the stakeholders represented. The Department is committed to pursuing opportunities, consistent with applicable law, to compose a committee that reflects the diversity of the nation's people. All members shall be leaders found within appropriate professions, communities, and faith traditions nationwide.

The Secretary will select members from the following categories:

- Faith-based organization security officials;
- Faith-based organization leaders;
- Faith leaders; and
- State and local public safety, law enforcement, and emergency management leaders.

One member will be a representative from the Department of Justice or Federal Bureau of Investigation who will serve as a non-voting ex officio member.

Terms of service are up to three consecutive years. In the event the FBSAC charter lapses or terminates, all appointments to the Council likewise terminate.

13. Officers:

The Secretary shall designate a Chair and a Vice-Chair from among the appointed members of the FBSAC. The Vice-Chair will act as Chair in the absence or incapacity of the Chair, or in the event of a vacancy in the office of the Chair.

14. Subcommittees:

The Secretary, through the DFO, may establish subcommittees (this includes any subcommittees, task forces, working groups, or any other similar group) for any purpose consistent with this charter. In the event the subcommittee or FBSAC terminates, all appointments to the subcommittee likewise terminate. Subcommittees shall be composed of a number of FBSAC and non-FBSAC members to be determined by the DFO. All non-federal and non-FBSAC subcommittee members must complete a non-disclosure agreement and gratuitous service agreement. The DFO, with the consultation of the FBSAC Chair, shall designate a Chair and Vice Chair for each of the subcommittees from among the FBSAC’s members.

Subcommittees may not work independent of the FBSAC and must present their work to the FBSAC for full deliberation and discussion. Subcommittees have no authority to make decisions on behalf of the FBSAC and may not report directly to the Federal Government or any other entity.

15. Recordkeeping:

The records of the FBSAC, formally and informally established subcommittees or other subgroups of the Committee, shall be handled in accordance with *General Records Schedule* 6.2 or other approved agency records disposition schedule. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying, in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act* (5 U.S.C., § 552).

16. Filing Date:

07/24/2024
Agency Approval Date

07/24/2024
GSA Consultation Date

07/26/24
Date Filed with Congress