

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 establishes FBSAC under the authority of Title 6 United States Code, Section 451. This discretionary committee is established in accordance with and operates under the provisions of the *Federal Advisory Committee Act* (FACA), Title 5 United States Code, Appendix.

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 Organization Security Coordinator on matters related to houses of worship, faith-based organizations, and preparedness. 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 of strategies and policies that will further the Department's ability to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters, or other emergencies.
- B. Information-sharing and Coordination: Recommendations for improving coordination and sharing of threat and security-related information, internally across the Department, externally across the Federal Government, and among state, local, tribal governments, first responders, the private and non-profit sectors, academia, and research communities.
- C. Management and Implementation: Recommendations for the development and implementation of specific programs or initiatives to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism and targeted violence.

D. Evaluation and Feedback: Recommendations for the efficiency and effectiveness of the Department's faith-based organization security programs (e.g., two-way information sharing, facilitate training, building of bridges between faith-based communities and their law enforcement partners, addressing community issues of concerns, FEMA's non-profit security grant program, security training and tools for faith-based organizations, etc.). Recommendations will also prioritize how to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from domestic and international terrorist attacks (e.g., white supremacist extremist attacks). This includes providing feedback on how DHS can address the needs of the faith-based community against evolving and future threats as they arise.

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 \$500,000, 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, committee, subcommittee, and task force 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 Organization 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 Title 5, United States Code, subsection (c) of Section 552b, *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 25 members who are appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of, the Secretary. In order for the Secretary to fully leverage broad-ranging experience and education the FBSAC must be professionally, technically, and culturally diverse. These members shall all be leaders found within diverse and appropriate professions and communities nationwide.

Some of the members shall be comprised of representatives from the following categories:

- Experts in houses of worship and faith-based organization security;
- Faith-Based leaders;
- Faith-Based Organization leaders; and
- Faith-Based news media.

Non-federal members may serve as Special Government Employees (SGEs) as defined in Title 18 United States Code, section 202(a).

Some of the members shall be comprised of government officials from the following offices:

- Federal Emergency Management Agency;
- Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency;
- DHS Office of Intelligence and Analysis;

U.S. Secret Service;
The White House;
DHS Office of Strategy, Policy and Plans; and
DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties.

Observers from additional federal offices may serve as ad hoc observers, but are not considered council members and do not possess voting rights.

Terms of service are up to three consecutive years and approximately one-third of the member terms shall expire each year to promote membership continuity and a balanced currency of expertise. In the event the FBSAC lapses or terminates, all appointments to the council likewise terminate.

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.

13. Subcommittees:

The DFO may establish subcommittees, task forces, or working groups 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.

14. 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* (Title 5, United States Code, section 552).

15. Filing Date:

July 13, 2020
Agency Approval Date

July 1, 2020
GSA Consultation Date

July 28, 2020
Date Filed with Congress