



## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

### Homeland Security Advisory Council

June 8, 2012

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Secretary Janet Napolitano  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Madame Secretary:

The Faith-based Security and Communications Advisory Committee (FBAC) was created as a result of your tasking of the Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC) on August 15, 2011 which directed the HSAC to form a task force to develop and provide recommendations regarding how the Department can better share current and potential security information between the Department and faith-based organizations (FBO).

Over the course of the intervening five months, the FBAC conducted six conference calls and two in-person meetings to develop findings and recommendations for the HSAC's review and approval. It is with pleasure that I transmit the HSAC approved FBAC final report.

The FBAC report contains a very important value statement from its culturally diverse membership. In that statement, the membership "strongly and uniformly denounce violence against any other (faith-based organizations) to include their houses of worship and those who worship. When any threats target one member of the faith-based community, they target all of us and will be met with stiff resistance in their attempt to divide us against hate."

Among the key findings of the FBAC was that the Department recognizes the importance of sharing homeland security information with faith-based organizations. The FBAC found that a more formal relationship is sought and required between the Department and faith-based organizations.

The FBAC noted that the Department should identify and work with faith-based organizations to establish a formal two-way process for sharing homeland security information. In addition, the Department should designate points of contact to interact with faith-based communities, to include a senior level full time position with access to senior Departmental leadership within the DHS Headquarters whose primary responsibility is the sharing of homeland security and threat information with the faith-based communities.

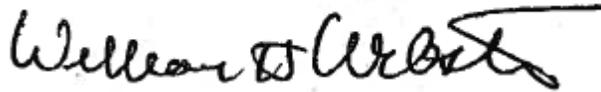
FBAC felt that the Department should increase its outreach to all faith-based organizations at the local level to inform and educate individuals and

communities about DHS and its mission, and to support security needs of the faith-based organizations.

Another key FBAC recommendation notes the need to train and monitor the Protective Security Advisors to engage and work closely with faith-based communities on infrastructure protection, training, etc.

Finally, the FBAC members felt that the Department should continue the operations of the FBAC and provide it with additional taskings focused on faith-based organizations' security.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Webster". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent horizontal stroke at the end.

**William Webster**  
Chair, Homeland Security Advisory Council