



# THE ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF GREATER HOUSTON

3110 Eastside Street • Houston, Texas 77098 • Telephone 713.524.6615 • Fax 713.524.2045

[www.isgh.org](http://www.isgh.org)

February 5, 2019

## Message from the President

Dear Brothers and Sisters: **السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته**

The safeguarding of your financial information is of the utmost importance to ISGH. Unfortunately, the Shura was informed by a donor that his financial information was compromised and was used for two unauthorized transactions. Upon receiving this information, the President investigated the incident and we now know that a family member of the treasurer of ISGH was involved in the wrong doing. There were two unauthorized transactions. This is an isolated incident, but the Shura has taken immediate steps in hiring 3rd party independent internal auditors to do a forensic audit of the financial transactions of ISGH. The purpose of this is two-fold. One is to make sure that no suspicious activity has occurred that was missed by the process in place. Second is to have a review of the overall procedures in handling donations and correct any and all shortcomings in the process. Not only has ISGH taken steps to do a forensic audit by an independent 3rd party auditor, but we have also taken steps in hiring a full-time internal auditor to continue to look at all the financial transactions daily and develop better internal controls to completely prevent any such incident in the future.

Due to inherent difficulties in the by-laws of ISGH concerning the removal of a BOARD member from the Shura, the President and some Shura members have asked the Treasurer to voluntarily resign from his position. After his refusal to do so, the President had drafted and presented a resolution to suspend the Treasurer for his negligence to his fiduciary responsibilities. The Shura members present at the BOARD meeting which was held on Monday, February the 4<sup>th</sup>, voted unanimously in favor to suspend the treasurer from his position for 90 days. This is the maximum suspension duration allowable in the by-laws of ISGH. This suspension is not in effect till the C&B committee give their opinion on the merit of this resolution within the next few days. This is required by the by-laws of ISGH. The by-laws of ISGH also provides a more permanent solution which would need at least 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the voting body to draft and submit a petition to the board, but at this moment no such petition exists.

It pains us as an organization that this happened. We are happy that the donor came forward and reported the problem so that we would be aware of the issue. ISGH is always being honored by the trust of its members. This trust is fragile, and we understand that breaking this trust would be detrimental to ISGH. We are doing, and will



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continue to do, the utmost we can to make sure that your financial information is kept private and secure. ISGH is proud to serve the community of Houston and will continue to serve the community in an honorable way. Thank you for all that you do to assist ISGH in making Houston a great place to live and worship as a Muslim.

-Sohail Syed  
President, ISGH

