



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

## The Muslim Community Center, Inc.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** – MCC Offers Condolences after Mass Shooting in Annapolis

June 29, 2018

**The Muslim Community Center (MCC)** of Silver Spring, Maryland, one of the oldest Muslim faith-based organizations in the Washington, DC area, expresses its condolences to the families, friends, and coworkers of the five people killed yesterday at the Capital Gazette newspaper offices in Annapolis, Md.

The victims have been identified as staff members Rob Hiaasen, 59, an editor and columnist; Gerald Fischman, 61, an editorial page editor; John McNamara, 56, a sports writer; Wendi Winters, 65, a community correspondent; and Rebecca Smith, 34, a sales assistant.

A gunman opened fire in the Capital Gazette's newsroom on Thursday afternoon, killing these five people and injuring two others. The suspect, identified as 38-year-old Jarrod W. Ramos of Laurel, Md., has been charged with five counts of first-degree murder. No motive has been announced yet, but Anne Arundel County police called it a "targeted attack" on the Capital Gazette. Ramos previously had unsuccessfully sued the paper for defamation in 2012.

It is always horrifying to hear of yet another senseless shooting tragedy, but the shock is great when it is so close to home. MCC grieves with the community around the Capital Gazette, a local newspaper owned by the Baltimore Sun that has covered the city of Annapolis for over 130 years. We join with fellow Marylanders and the rest of our nation in praying for the families who are today in such unimaginable pain, and in calling on our elected leaders to unite in finding a solution that will end mass shootings once and for all.

*MCC's mission is to promote brotherhood and human dignity among all by developing an environment of understanding, compassion, and justice in our personal and professional lives. We strive to serve the needs of the Muslim community and community at large in a manner that promotes its positive image and standing in a changing environment. We aim to represent the Muslim community in interfaith circles, in government, public and media relations, and in the society at large.*

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For more information, please email [info@mccmd.org](mailto:info@mccmd.org) or call 301-384-3454