

# The Murfreesboro Mosque Conflict Chronicles

by Jerry Gordon (October 2010)

[Islamic center of Murfreesboro investigative report](#) from [Vlad Tepes](#) on [Vimeo](#).

Tennessean report offered \$20,000 as an inducement to persons unknown to come forward with information.

of the PARC press release and Friendship Pledge.

Former Congressional candidate Lou Ann Zelenik was spokesperson for PARC which held a press conference in the Parking lot of Grace Baptist Church adjacent to the ICM project site. Ms. Zelenik read a Friendship Pledge that requested that Sheik Imam Ossama Bahloul reject Islamic Sharia law. Pastor Darrel Whaley of the Kingdom Worship Ministries presented a rebuttal statement to the ICM Pledge of Tolerance and Religious Freedom on behalf of Evangelical Christian pastors in the Middle Tennessee Community. Listen to a WGNS recording of the PARC press conference in an article entitled: [See this Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life](#) interactive map for locations and mosque protest in America.

As shown in the WKRN TV news video, the PARC Friendship Pledge was then delivered to Sheik Bahloul by several PARC leaders. Note Sheik Bahloul disingenuous response to the PARC objections to Islamic Sharia law concerning abolishing violence towards women.

Later at the site of the mosque construction, a group called the Patriot Alliance of Rutherford County (PARC) led by former 6th congressional Republican candidate Lou Ann Zelenik, asked the imam

Osama Bahloul to sign what was called a "A Pledge of Friendship."

It was a list of 10 items (PARC) wanted the imam to publicly renounce—like Islamic Shariah Law which critics say allows things like violence against women. "Male and female share the same right and they are equal before the law, there is no room for doubt for this, but people have the right to say anything they want," said the Imam after receiving the pledge.

Sheik Bahloul is just practicing [You Tube video](#) of Coker's presentation to the Public Safety Committee. Coker showed information from ICM board member Rawash's MySpace webpage on his support of Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood pamphlets found at the ICM open house in July. Coker had previously presented screen shots of this information from Rawash's MySpace website to Mayor Burgess. She is under a subpoena and may testify about this information when the hearing reconvenes in October.

The second day of hearings was absorbed in intense cross examination of RCPC head Demosi over whether there was a pre-meeting prior to the issuance of the early use burial permit under his alleged sole authority and the May 24<sup>th</sup> Commission approval for ICM project to proceed. Among the revelations from that cross examination were:

? Public notices printed in the *Murfreesboro Post*, a local weekly, did not reach the county residents;

? Notwithstanding Tennessee statutes that do not require publication of a hearing agenda, the County has made a practice of posting agendas on the website, not so in this instance;

? The issue of sewerage for the ICM project was not investigated which might require annexation by the adjacent City of Murfreesboro, with costs paid by the taxpayers; and,

? Demosi had apparently been sent materials on Islam, Sharia and related information and didn't read them.

There was a brief third day of hearings at which Commissioner Robert Peay took the stand for cross-examination. Peay, alone among the Commissioners, had previously been briefed extensively on the Rawash MySpace website evidence of support for Hamas. Rutherford County building and construction permit officials gave testimony on the conditional use permit for the early burial on the ICM job site on May 19th. An issue arose over whether the interment of the deceased Muslim member of the ICM was within less than the prescribed fifty feet of the property line. We understand that this matter will be investigated separately by Sherriff Arnold. The hearings will reconvene on October 20<sup>th</sup>, after County counsel Cope returns from Europe.

It appears that Chancellor Corwell is willing to put together a record from which to render a verdict, whether he chooses to rule either narrowly or broadly on the charges argued by Plaintiffs Attorney Brandon, Jr. Those charges are vigorously opposed by the Rutherford County Counsel.