



## **Community Announcement, Dated October 01, 2021**

### **Update on Fayetteville St. Masjid Construction Project**

Dear JIAR Community: Assalamu alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh. We pray that you are in the best state of Iman, and staying safe and healthy. The purpose of this note is to share with you an important update on JIAR's Fayetteville Street Masjid construction project.

As you all may aware, the original budget in 2017 for this development project was \$3.0Million. However, over the course of time the cost of the project increased by >60% to \$4.8Million.

The economic slowdown due to the pandemic has impacted the businesses of many including the principal donors. This situation together with the increasing budget resulted in withdrawal of commitments by major donors of the project. Additionally, the spiraling cost of materials and shortage of labor due to the pandemic made the project more expensive and challenging than before. Even by means of significant value engineering, the cost of the project considerably exceeded the budget.

The project committee has assessed the situation several times for a pragmatic way forward last year and this year, but you all know the reality we are facing until now. Meanwhile, this situation has also provided the committee and JIAR management the opportunity to revisit the Jamaat's priorities, thereby reconsidering the need and cost of the project, and re-aligning the communities' priorities and long-term objectives.

In the community meeting held earlier this year, the following options were shared to the community;

- Continue with the approved design
- Pause project and redesign to budget
- Renovate the existing building.

Considering the financial situation, and evaluating the present and future needs of the community, the Project Committee has recently recommended the JIAR board to work on the "Renovation option"

Accordingly, we are currently reaching out to Architects and Contractors for the Design and Construction services for the renovation of the masjid. The scope proposed by the committee currently includes the following, but this will not be finalized until we have an opportunity to consult with you in a community meeting in coming days

- Refresh of the Men's/Women's bathrooms and Wudu place.
- Remodel the Funeral home.
- Uplift of the building exterior by adding architectural elements and modification to the existing windows.
- Kitchen
- Entrance plaza/Canopy along with a separate entrance for the sisters.



Dear community members, we are well aware that you are patiently waiting to hear from us on the status and future steps of your Masjid project. As soon as we have a preliminary design plan for renovation, a community meeting along with the architects will be organized to further brainstorm the needs, and finalize the renovation scope. We anticipate the meeting to be held in Mid-October 2021 *Insha'Allah*.

Jazakum Allahu Khayran for your continued support and cooperation.

**Ahmad Lee**  
JIAR Administrator