



Jacob Frey's East African Housing Community Conversation Fragments, Disrupts, and Dismisses Community Work

On Monday, April 9th, Mayor Jacob Frey will be joined by Council Members Abdi Warsame and Cam Gordon to speak at an “East African Community Housing Forum” in the Phillips neighborhood hosted by Asad Aliweyd and the [New American Development Center](#) (NADC). This is a much-needed conversation, however, the choice of host and speakers is both questionable and harmful. Instead of choosing to uplift the voices of people who live in the city and neighborhood, Mayor Frey decided to hand the mic over to a man known for dismissing women in the East African community, as well as supporting Islamophobic policies. Specifically:

- Aliweyd is based in Eden Prairie, [where he ran for school board](#) several years ago. He runs a tutoring program there, called the New American Academy (NAA), which is also known as an NADC. According to their website, it's the same organization. The use of two names for the same organization is misleading and suspect.
- Aliweyd is a deeply controversial figure in the local community due to his connection to the [Department of Justice's Countering Violent Extremism \(CVE\)](#) program, and for his troubling behavior and attitude towards Somali-American women.
- Former US Attorney for the District of Minnesota Andy Luger selected local nonprofit organization, [Youthprise, to receive over \\$200,000](#) as a part of the CVE program in exchange for acting as the DOJ's liaison to the Somali Community. Muslim leaders nationwide have raised objections to the CVE program due to its surveillance, infiltration, and criminalization of Muslims in general, and Somali-American Youth in particular. On their website, Youthprise lists NAA as recipients of their CVE funding. The connection between Aliweyd and the CVE fund is deeply concerning. Luger spoke at the 5th anniversary of the founding of the NAA. Perhaps Aliweyd chose to change the name of his organization to try to distance himself from his connection with the CVE program and Luger due to fears that it will damage his reputation in the East African community, particularly in the post-Trump era where support for the CVE program diminished.
- But in spite of their generous CVE funding, there is nothing legitimate about the NADC. The website for the NAA (which is still up, and makes no mention of any name change) contains a “success” stories section that is made up of an assortment of small businesses in the Twin Cities that have absolutely nothing to do with the NAA. Two separate pages on NADC's website contain comments in about half a dozen languages, all detailing

how to cultivate marijuana plants. It is unclear why these comments are on this website. The website itself is littered with typos and vague statements; it's deeply unclear what NADC actually is, and what exactly it is that they do. It seems that they are a go-to organization for local government agencies that want to give the appearance of engaging the East African community without actually doing it.

- Aside from his role as Executive Director of the New American Development Center, Aliweyd is known to bully and harass women activists and organizers in the community, particularly organizers who "get in his way."

Perhaps this explains Jacob Frey's choice of Aliweyd as host for his community forum on housing. Last fall, Mayor Frey received over 5,000 votes from the East African community. As part of his effort to gain the support of this block of voters, Frey met with public housing residents and leaders of Defend Glendale & Public Housing Coalition concerned about plans to privatize their homes. At this meeting, he promised resident leaders from DG&PHC that if he were elected, he would make sure that no privatization of public housing would occur, and he would announce it right away. But since his election, his leadership has fallen short. Instead of following through on his promises to protect public housing, Mayor Frey has instead chose to scheme with developers for how he can gentrify Minneapolis, displacing and destroying East Africans in the process. His actions continue to alienate and disregard low-income community members:

- [At a community-housing forum on February 15th hosted by Mayor Frey](#), the mayor failed to provide any interpreters.
- He proceeded to speak on the need for affordable housing without mentioning public housing despite the promises he had made.
- A Somali elder and leader of DG&PHC who attended the event attempted to ask a question because he was not able to understand what was being spoken. This man knew Mayor Frey and had canvassed for his campaign. Mayor Frey pretended not know and didn't allow him to speak. Feeling disillusioned, the elder walked out with the rest of the DG&PHC team.
- Mayor Frey was embarrassed by this event, which was videotaped and shared online. Afraid of being exposed for his betrayal of East African voters, Frey sent his staffers to try to silence DG&PHC and anyone else who spoke out about this event. In a misinformed and problematic move, it now appears that Mayor Frey is turning to Aliweyd and his DOJ funding as a way to rebuild legitimacy in the East African community.

It's no surprise now that Frey is aligning himself with Aliweyd as host for his community forum on housing. Knowing full well how controversial the CVE program is, Mayor Frey appears to be attempting to divide the East African community in order to push his pro-developer agenda. East African residents are organizing citywide to defend public housing and their communities. Mayor Frey and his developer friends are afraid they will succeed. They want to destroy public housing in order to drive up rents and to gentrify the city. This was an opportunity to partner with well-established and respected housing organization

in the East African community. Instead, Frey has chosen to host this event with a new organization that does not seem to have any legitimate activities. Moreover, it promotes the use of marijuana on their website, while also bragging about how they are at mentoring youth.

Why would Mayor Frey, of all the established and professional East Africans, choose to align himself with someone with such a checkered past? Did no one at his office even look at NADC's website or vet the organization or Aliweyd? Moreover, quick fixes and relationships of opportunity will never replace the community engagement and listening work Mayor Frey needs to do. What we need is for Mayor Frey to stop dividing communities of color, immigrant, East African, and low-income communities, stop using racist, oppressive, bullying, tokenizing tactics to hide his real plans of gentrifying and pushing out low-income families. Instead, he must be willing to prioritize residents and ensure they are heard.

**Sincerely,
Defend Glendale & Public Housing Coalition**

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Below are screenshots showing the comments describing how to cultivate marijuana from Aliweyd's NADC's website:



Crowder Alexandersen posted an update
16 hours ago

Schlechte Trocknung beeinträchtigt deutlich die Saatgutqualität bei der Lagerung. Aber richtig befriedigend war es nicht indes die Länge des Zyklus im Verhältnis zum Ertrag nicht stimmte. Der Beteiligter der amerikanischen Abgabestellen – OG Kush – wurde mit Critical gemischt, ihrer Grundsorte in europäischen Cannabisclubs, um die mächtige Power... [\[Read more\]](#)



Crowder Alexandersen posted an update
17 hours ago

Sie müssen mindestens 0 Flaschen in den Warenkorb verringern oder ein Programm abgeschlossen bezahlen. Wenn er zuhause gezüchtet wird, kann der Hersteller diesen Lichtplan nur zeitweilig steuern, wenn er sich dazu entschließt, in Blüte zu gehen. Bei könnt ihr die besten Hanfsamen bestellen ferner das zu unschlagbar

2 days ago



Willadsen Hjorth - "Nel modo gna piante autoflorenti (incrocio vittoria Cannabis Ruderalis con Cannabis Indica Sativa) sono caratterizzate dalla fioritura automatica, ciò significa che la pianta passa spontaneamente al arco di tempo [...]" [View](#)

2 days ago



Eskesen Soelberg - "Perché questa capiente importanza data alla cannabis? Seeds ha fatto in modo che nel modo che piante femmine producano sicuramente fiori maschi (inter. per un trattamento con acido di gibberelline, che trasforma [...]" [View](#)

2 days ago



Ashworth Corbett - "growing cannabis in 2 gallon pots is very useful in specific situations, such as outdoor growing when you can't easily get to your crop to weed out male plants or when you've missed the preferred outdoor marijuana [...]" [View](#)

2 days ago