



January 28, 2019

To: Vic Regalado, Tulsa County Sheriff
Tulsa County Sheriff's Office
303 W. 1st St.
Tulsa, OK 74103

From: Megan Lambert, Legal Fellow
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Sheriff Regalado:

In response to the recent order dismissing Ms. Elquitt's case regarding her treatment when attempting to enter the Tulsa County Courthouse last May, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Oklahoma and the Council on America-Islamic Relations (CAIR) of Oklahoma submit this letter with the hope that our offices can work together to ensure such treatment does not befall another Muslim woman seeking access to the court.

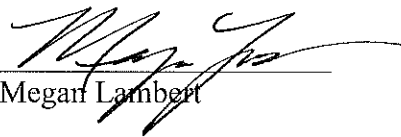
We would like to note that the case was not dismissed for lack of a demonstrated constitutional violation, but rather for the fact that Ms. Elquitt is unlikely to face the same experience again. It is our continued understanding that requiring a Muslim woman to publically remove her hijab to gain entry into court is a grave violation of the freedom of religion. However, our offices have been speaking with other Muslim women who have been able to enter the Tulsa County Courthouse without issue and were provided a screening room when necessary. We are pleased to see that this is the current practice of the Tulsa County Sheriff's Office and find the use of a screening room an appropriate solution to the issue

that both protects the safety of those in the courthouse and respects the dignity of people of all faiths. Given this practice and your office's stated willingness to learn about the beliefs and practices of other faiths, we are not planning on appealing the dismissal.

If our information that a screening room is provided is correct, we believe your office has already enacted what we would propose as the first solution to this issue. The second is to codify that policy in your office's written policies and procedures to give clarity to all officers and to insure the continued use of screening rooms in the future. We would also like to offer our time and resources to help conduct a department-wide training on the religious significance of the hijab and how to appropriately treat women who wear it who may set off the alarms. The ACLU of Oklahoma and CAIR Oklahoma are happy to serve as resources for your office as you discuss how best to preserve both the security of the courthouse and the dignity of all those within it.

Thank you in advance for your efforts in addressing the matter.

Sincerely,



Megan Lambert



Veronica Laizure