



The Deputy Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

January 6, 2012

MEMORANDUM TO ALL UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS

FROM:

James Cole 
Deputy Attorney General

SUBJECT: Expanding the Department's Engagement Efforts

A critical aspect of the Department of Justice's work consists of engaging with and understanding the communities that we have the privilege to serve. Indeed, Department leadership last year affirmed that "the Department of Justice must engage effectively with all segments of American society. Our engagement efforts serve both the Department and local communities, as trusting and collaborative relationships benefit law enforcement and the public alike."¹ I am grateful for the work that you do every day to build these relationships with a wide variety of communities. In particular, a number of United States Attorneys have dedicated substantial time and energy over the last year to build and strengthen relationships with Arab- and Muslim-American communities.

I am pleased that all United States Attorneys will now be expanding their engagement efforts. Building relationships at the local level requires sustained effort and a genuine commitment on the part of law enforcement and government officials to address community needs and interests. That genuine commitment was evident in the group of United States Attorneys who began enhancing their engagement last fall. I know that expanding this effort will be all the more successful because those United States Attorneys remain extremely invested in this outreach and are ready to act as resources to others regarding first steps, best practices, and lessons learned. They will be invaluable as we expand this initiative to all districts.

Expanding the Department's engagement efforts is consistent with the Attorney General's longstanding priorities, because outreach improves our ability to perform our duties in a manner that is consistent with core American values. It is also consistent with the White House's National Strategy for Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism in the United States ("Domestic CVE Strategy"), which recognizes that "[t]he best defenses against

¹ Memorandum from Gary G. Grindler, Acting Deputy Attorney General, to All United States Attorneys Regarding Guidance for Use of Community Outreach Resource Guide for Engagement with Local Arab and Muslim American Communities 1 (Nov. 16, 2010).

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violent extremist ideologies are well-informed and equipped families, local communities, and local institutions.²

In order to launch the Department's expanded engagement work, there will be an important training program conducted via video-teleconference on January 19, 2012.

As part of this effort, you will need to coordinate with federal, state, and local counterparts. I am directing all United States Attorneys who have not already done so to convene at least one meeting in short order with government partners in your districts to discuss engagement with Arab- and Muslim-American communities as a predicate to further engagement. These meetings will allow participants to survey resources, identify promising practices, and coordinate activities.

Additionally, because of the whole-of-government effort related to countering violent extremism, the Department must coordinate its activities with several other agencies, and there will be biannual reporting obligations related to the number of engagement activities you participate in and/or organize. Included with this memorandum is a document describing the kind of information you should be maintaining so that it is readily available upon request. For more information about the whole-of-government effort to counter violent extremism, please read the aforementioned Domestic CVE Strategy, which was released by the White House on August 2, 2011, and the Strategic Implementation Plan for the Domestic CVE Strategy, which was released by the White House on December 8, 2011.

Again, thank you for all your work in this area. Building relationships with communities is an effort well worth our energy, time, and resources, and I have great confidence that you will make this endeavor a successful one.

² THE WHITE HOUSE, EMPOWERING LOCAL PARTNERS TO PREVENT VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN THE UNITED STATES 2 (2011).