

White House Summit on Countering Violent Extremism February 18, 2015 Notes and Recommendations from Minnesota on Preventing Radicalization

Imam Abdisalam Adam

Engagement and dialogue are Important

Transparent two way communication

Partnership with credible community representatives

Must oppose violent extremism

Right of all people to live in peace

Protect civil rights

United States Attorney Andrew Luger

“Building Community Resilience” plan

Plan built by community

1. Increase community engagement by law enforcement

2. Address root causes of radicalization

Identity crisis

Lack of job opportunities

Need for more mentors

Shortage of after-school programs

Many youth have a disconnect from religious leaders

3. Partners will develop “Community Led Intervention” Teams

FBI Special Agent In Charge Rick Thornton

Aggressive enforcement is part of solution

Law enforcement partnerships with community are important

St. Paul Police Chief Tom Smith

Law enforcement outreach is important

Police training in Somali culture and language skills

Regular meetings with East African community

Hosting multicultural events

Hire more Somali-American officers

Find ways to bring young Somali youth into contact with police officers

Hennepin County Sheriff Rich Stanek

Recognize that many Somalis distrust law enforcement

Work to overcome that with one on one relationships

Don't be seen as playing favorites

Hodan Hassan, Youth Mentor

Treat Root Causes including mental health

Identity Issues - American vs Somali - Root cause

Unemployment

Youth feel less important

Youth fear law enforcement

“Community Led Intervention” Teams

Work with mothers, school officials, community organizers, mental health personnel, religious leaders to address early warning signs of radicalization.

Empower the community to use internal and external resources to solve problem of radicalization

Minneapolis City Councilperson Abdi Warsame

Causes of Radicalization are:

Lack of opportunity

Lack of job

Must improve skill base and extend skill sets through workforce development, job training, job fairs and placement programs

“Creating jobs will allow equal access to the American Dream”

Mohamed Farah, Director, KaJoog

Teach youth to focus on higher education

Use peer mentors

Develop arts programs

Leadership learning

More activities such as 4H

Positive programs

Mohamed Jama, Cedar Riverside Youth Council

Lack of after-school programs

Lack of fathers or male role models in home

Unemployment

Distrust of government

More mentors for our youth

Enhance desire to succeed

More funding for youth activities like soccer programs

United States Representative Keith Ellison

Must address the recruitment narrative of ISIS.

United States is not at war with Islam

Must fix the remittance problem

Engage the community

Vice President Joe Biden

Society has to provide affirmative alternatives so that youth can develop a sense of belonging