



Governor's Office



MARYLAND

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES
"reaching out to all of Maryland's communities"

**Governor's
Commission on
Middle Eastern
American Affairs**



ANNUAL REPORT

2013



MISSION

The Governor's Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs serves as an advisory board to the Governor and agencies within the Executive Department on matters relating to the Middle Eastern American population of Maryland, including matters relating to economic, workforce and business development.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Governor.....pg. 4

Message from the Executive Director.....pg. 5

Message from the Chair.....pg. 6

Commissioners.....pg. 7

Executive Summary.....pg. 9

Commission Goals.....pg. 10

Business Development.....pg. 12

Maryland Demographics.....pg. 20



STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



MARTIN O'MALLEY
GOVERNOR

STATE HOUSE
100 STATE CIRCLE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1925
(410)974-3901
(TOLL FREE) 1-800-811-8336

TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY



A MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

Dear Friends:

For the past seven years, the Governor's Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs has served the O'Malley/Brown Administration and advised us on issues pertaining to the growing Middle Eastern American community in our great Stat. The Commission members and staff have worked diligently to promote community, business and workforce development.

This year has been an especially important year for our Administration as I was afforded the opportunity to lead a delegation to the Middle East. The delegation of over 30 business, civic and higher education leaders for the eight-day mission visited Jordan, Israel and Palestine. The trip marked my third visit to Israel and my first trip to Jordan and Palestine.

Hosting events ranging from participating in foreign missions to interfaith food drives the Commission is identify and address the issues of our Middle Eastern American constituents in our great State. The Commission has a deep appreciation for interfaith and intercultural dialogue which has allowed them to sustain a dynamic work plan which strengthens their unique and diverse composition. The work of the Governor's Commission on Middle Eastern American Commission has assisted in advancing opportunities for our growing community in business, employment, education and many other areas.

I am pleased to present you with the Commission's 2014 Annual Report.

Sincerely,

Martin O'Malley
Governor



A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

The Governor's Office of Community Initiatives (GOCI) coordinates community and volunteer activities statewide and advises the Governor on policies to enhance and improve community programs. This Office also oversees the work of the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism, Volunteer Maryland and community affairs services within the Executive Branch of Maryland government. Additionally, GOCI coordinates outreach to ethnic communities across Maryland, overseeing the Governor's Office and Commission on Asian American and Pacific Islander Affairs, the Governor's Commission on African Affairs, the Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs, the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs, and the Governor's Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs.

As a Governor's Coordinating Office, GOCI is able to engage the resources of multiple State agencies and coordinate policy and activities related to community initiatives. By creating the Governor's Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs, Governor O'Malley has affirmed his strong commitment to the Middle Eastern American community.

Under the leadership of Chair Anwer Hasan, Vice Chair Rafi Rone and Assistant Director Iman Awad, The Governor's Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs has already become an integral part of the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives. Together, we expect to make great strides toward ensuring greater access and opportunities for Middle Eastern Americans living in Maryland. In order to achieve this goal, we will continue to reach out to the community, engage key stakeholders, and mobilize participation in support of community initiatives.

Israel C. "Izzy" Patoka
Executive Director
Governor's Office of Community Initiatives



A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSION CHAIR

Dear Friends:

Dear Distinguished Officials, Community Leaders and Friends,

It is my honor to present to you, on behalf of the Governor's Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs, our 2013 Annual Report. Marking our sixth report under the O'Malley/Brown Administration we hope that our readers will be able to use this report to track our progress, review our state demographics, and to stay in contact with our office.

The work we do is a testament of the commitment from our community. Your involvement is a vital component to our success. Our role as a Commission is to provide our Administration with a comprehensive and effective work plan to address our community's needs and concerns. With your input we have been able to sustain a work plan which continues to evolve in order to best represent our needs.

A few highlights from this year include the Governor's mission to the Middle East, the study for inclusion to Middle Eastern Americans to the State's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) program, and the success of our first summit discussing the important role of women in the Middle Eastern American community. Looking forward for 2014, the Commission is planning to continue working with the Office of Minority Business to better understand the MBE program and to expand on the success of our inaugural women's summit.

As our community continues to grow and strengthen their engagement, the Commission is committed to evolving our work plan to best represent our community's progress.

As the nation's first state-level Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs, we would like to express our sincerest gratitude to Governor Martin O'Malley, Lt. Governor Anthony Brown, and Executive Director Izzy Patoka for their innovative leadership and continued support.

Sincerely,
Anwer Hasan
Chair, Governor's Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs



COMMISSIONERS

Anwer Hasan, P.E., Chair

- Vice President, Business Unit Director, EA Engineering
- Chairman, Requirement Committee for Base Realignment and Closure Task Forces for Howard County and Baltimore City
- Member, Higher Education Commission
- Member, Howard County Muslim Council

Rafi Rone, Vice Chair

- Director of Jewish and Israel Initiatives, Joseph & Harvey Meyerhoff Family Charitable Funds
- Board Member, Jewish Communal Service Association
- Fellow, Ralph I. Goldman International

Barry Bogage

- Executive Director, Maryland/Israel Development Center
- Board Member, Montgomery County Sister Cities, Inc.
- Advisory Board Member, TowsonGlobal, Towson University's International Incubator

Sarit Brosh

- Financial Advisor, Financial Planning Specialist, Morgan Stanley Smith Barney
- Member, Maryland/Israel Development Center
- Life Member, Hadassah
- Board Member, Ten Li Yad

Salwa Elgebaly, Ph.D.

- President and CEO, Nour Heart, Inc.
- Adjunct Assistant Professor, United States Naval Academy
- Member, Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies, United States Naval Academy
- Commissioner, Anne Arundel Commission for Women
- Director, Anne Arundel Muslim Council

Enas Elhanafi

- Adjunct Faculty, Montgomery College, Rockville
- Student Outreach Coordinator, Montgomery College, Rockville
- Member, The Greater Washington Association of Teachers of Foreign Languages

Dorreya (Didi) Elmenshawy

- Former Director, Construction and Buildings Inspection, Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development

Bagher Fardanesh, Ph.D.

- Member, American Society for Training and Development, Maryland Chapter
- Management Consultant, Small Business Development Center
- CEO & Founder, Piaget Consulting

Miriam Galston, Ph.D., J.D.

- Associate Professor, George Washington University Law School
- Member, Advisory Board, Bright Horizons Child Care Center
- Co-Chair, Committee on Political and Lobbying Organizations and Activities
- Member, American Bar Association
- Member, DC Bar Association



Toba Rainess

- Deputy Director, Baltimore Jewish Council
- Former Television Producer, WJZ-TV; WBAL-TV
- Life Member, Hadassah

Farzaneh Riar

- Member, Governor O'Malley Transition Team for Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
- Member, American Public Health Association
- Member, Association of Schools of Public Health

Mubariz Rizvi

- Chief Executive Officer, FiberElectronics, LLC
- Founding Member, Maryland Middle East American Chamber of Commerce
- Member, Human Rights Department Howard County, Hate Crime Intervention Panel

Amin Salam

- Executive Director, Global Business Development, National US Arab Chamber of Commerce

Huseyin Saribasak

- Executive Secretary, Rumi Forum, Rockville Branch
- Member, Maryland Turkish American Inhabitants

Sam Shihadeh

- Electrical Engineer, JDSU
- President, American Federation of Ramallah Palestine
- Advisory Board Member, Network for Arab American Professionals

Chadi Soliman

- Assistant General Manager, Best Western Plus Hotel & Conference Center
- Certified Tourism Ambassador, Baltimore Tourism Ambassador Program
- Member, Maryland Middle East American Chamber of Commerce

Julian Spirer

- Founder, Spirer Law Firm, P.C.
- Member, Higher Education Transition Group
- Former President, AmHatorah Congregation
- Former President, Barney Neighborhood House

Joseph Taylor

- Director of Program Development, Center for Academic Partnerships, Academy for Educational Development

Siron Zidan

- President, Heart of Islam Foundation, Inc.

Staff

Iman Awad
Assistant Director

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since the inception of the Governor's Commission on the Middle Eastern American Affairs on October 11, 2007, the Commission has been committed to maintaining an achievable, dynamic and sustainable work plan which clearly addresses the needs and concerns of the Middle Eastern American community in Maryland. In 2013, the Commission had the opportunity to expand on the business initiatives by participating with the Governor's economic mission to Israel, Jordan and Palestine, organized by the Maryland/Israel Development Center.



In addition to the economic mission, the Commission made significant progress in addressing the concern of including Middle Eastern American business owners to the state's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE). Working closely with the Governor's Office on Minority Affairs (GOMA) and the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), the Commission received a report submitted by NERA Economic Consulting to MDOT which identified key issues arising from various business owner interviews and also utilized available statistics to study the potential discrimination in the workforce faced by Middle Eastern American business owners. The study clearly mapped additional that the Commission will continue partnering with MDOT and GOMA in 2014 to build on the progress made in 2013.

Following the success of the Commission's 2012 Interfaith Movie Screening, the Commission hosted a follow up interfaith initiative, this time focusing on the role of women. In the seminar entitled Middle Eastern American Women: Perceptions and Realities, the Commission hosted a panel of women to discuss their roles in their respective faith communities and to tackle many of the misconceptions about the treatment of women. Over 100 people participated in the interactive panel and following the formal program the Commission arranged for cultural entertainment including dancing, music, art, literature and cuisine. The Commission appreciated the staff and leadership at Anne Arundel Community College who sponsored a portion of the event and hosted the seminar at their campus.

As the Commission carries its work plan into 2014, there is a deep commitment to continuing to build off of the success of our previous initiatives but to also diversify our topics in order to address all areas of concern within our community. If you are interested in our programs or want to know how to get involved, the Commission's website provides our office contact information, www.middleeastern.maryland.gov.



COMMISSION GOALS



Business Development

Taskforce Members: Durriya, Badani, Barry Bogage, Amin Salam, Julian Spierer, Jay Taylor

This committee studies and seeks to implement innovative ways of enhancing the participation of businesses and individuals of Middle Eastern extraction in the economic life of Maryland, including the expansion of government contracting opportunities for businesses owned by Middle Eastern Americans and the development of conditions favorable to expanded trade and investment between the Middle East and Maryland.

Short Term Goals:

- Establish a database to identify and collect Middle Eastern American owned businesses
- Meet with Middle Eastern business associations, state government agencies, embassy officials, and local chambers of commerce to help promote business between Maryland and the region
- Work with state agencies to identify potential barriers to Middle Eastern American businesses and state contracting opportunities

Long Term Goals:

- Propose and implement Middle Eastern American business conference with participation from state agencies, local chambers of commerce and embassy representatives
- Work with identified state agencies to promote inclusion of Middle Eastern countries to the Minority Business Enterprise program
- Promote inclusion of Middle Eastern countries in Maryland Sister States program
- Support the executive branch and state agencies to promote international trade missions to the Middle East region

Workforce Development

Taskforce Members: Sarit Brosh, Didi Elmenhawy, Bagher Fardanesh, Farzaneh Riar, Chadi Soliman, Siron Zidan

This committee studies Middle Eastern American appointments to boards and commissions, and to other decision-making positions within state government. The goal of this committee is to increase engagement and opportunities for Middle Eastern Americans in state government.

Short Term Goals:

- Collect data on Middle Eastern Americans serving on Maryland boards, commissions and state government
- Utilize existing resources to determine the demographics of Middle Eastern Americans in Maryland
- Identify and create clearing house for non-governmental and community organizations
- Familiarize the community on government hiring policies and provide information on job vacancies around the state
- Identify barriers and address obstacles of under employment

Long Term Goals:

- Maintain and update a database of state agency job announcements
- Develop and sponsor Middle Eastern job fair for community youth
- Establish and support mentoring programs to assist community youth and job seekers
- Attract Middle Eastern businesses to promote relations between the region and Maryland
- Expand State Official visits to the Middle East for purpose of economic and workforce development

Community and Social Development

Taskforce Members: Salwa Elgebaly, Enas Elhanafi, Miriam Galston, Toba Rainess, Sam Shihadeh

This committee works to reach out to Middle Eastern American communities to promote cultural awareness throughout the state. This committee also studies ways to plan for the anticipated and continued growth of the Middle Eastern American population. Furthermore, this committee works to promote and increase access to state programs and services, including social, health and educational programs.

Short Term Goals:

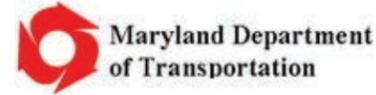
- Develop and distribute comprehensive Resource Booklet Guide identifying key programs to assist community members
- Social, educational, and health information community pamphlets
- Review state's current language access programs and assist in programs targeting languages from the region
- List of federal, state, community agencies concerning health facilities
- List of community housing agencies
- Identify community organizations and engage community leadership at all levels
- Multi-Cultural Day (Cultural Event)
- Heritage Magazine or report
- Host and participate in ongoing Interfaith Programs to build bridges between our faith based communities
- Develop and implement programs to highlight and discuss women's initiatives

Long Term Goals:

- Educational programs addressing cultural awareness in public schools
- Implement and participate in cultural awareness programs around the state and identify and address the needs of the community
- Focus on identifying programs to assist the community regarding youth and senior health
- Encourage and engage community leaders to participate in Commission initiatives and meetings
- Promote events engaging the Governor and key stakeholders in the community

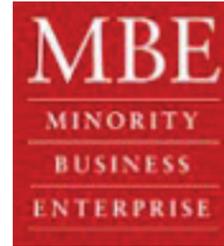


BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



Goal: To promote inclusion of Middle Eastern countries to the Minority Business Enterprise program.

Actions: On October 18, 2011 the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) engaged NERA Economic Consulting to conduct an independent third-party study. From 2011 through 2013, MDOT worked with NERA to finalize a report detailing the outcome of the independent study. Although the printed study was released on January 17, 2014 the Commission had been made aware of the progress at the end of 2013.



Statistical Analyses of Economy-Wide Disparities in Access to Contracts:

Wage and Salary Earnings

The following table depicts NERA's results of annual earnings among wage and salary workers. According to their findings, persons of Middle Eastern ancestry ear 27.6% lower than that of non-minority males who are otherwise similar in terms of geographic location, industry, age and education.

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	INDUSTRY SECTORS		
	All	Construction & AE-CRS	Goods & Services
Middle Eastern	-0.276	-0.189	-0.28
Minority	-0.301	-0.276	-0.302
Non Minority Female	-0.36	-0.419	-0.355
Age	0.163	0.128	0.165
Age2	-0.002	-0.001	-0.002
MDMA	0.31	0.342	0.301
MDMA*Middle Eastern	-0.041	0.033	-0.044
MDMA*Minority	0.006	0.005	0.009
MDMA*Non-Minority F	-0.009	0.088	-0.008
Education	Yes	Yes	Yes
Geography	Yes	Yes	Yes
Industry	Yes	Yes	Yes
N	2,554,612	216,248	2,338,364
R	0.4441	0.2647	0.4549

Business Owner Earnings

Following the data for wage and salary, NERA also assessed the annual earnings among business owners. Their research showed that there was no significant statistical difference between the average annual business owner earnings of persons with Middle Eastern ancestry and comparable non-minority males.

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	INDUSTRY SECTORS		
	All	Construction & AE-CRS	Goods & Services
Middle Eastern	0.036	0.087	0.032
Minority	-0.282	-0.294	-0.281
Non Minority Female	-0.493	-0.636	-0.488
Age	0.155	0.122	0.161
Age2	-0.002	-0.001	-0.002
MDMA	0.059	0.011	0.084
MDMA*Middle Eastern	-0.091	-0.216	-0.074
MDMA*Minority	0.02	0.163	-0.01
MDMA*Non-Minority F	0.086	-0.092	0.084
Education	Yes	Yes	Yes
Geography	Yes	Yes	Yes
Industry	Yes	Yes	Yes
N	277,082	45,546	231,536
R	0.1614	0.0543	0.1711

Business Formation

Lastly, NERA provided an analysis in regards to disparities for business formation. This chart shows that the business formation rate in the Maryland Marketplace (MDMA) for persons of Middle Eastern ancestry is 2.5 percentage points higher than that of comparable non-minority males.

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	INDUSTRY SECTORS		
	All	Construction & AE-CRS	Goods & Services
Middle Eastern	0.025	0.056	0.022
Minority	-0.029	-0.067	-0.026
Non Minority Female	-0.024	-0.092	-0.02
Age	0.009	0.022	0.008
Age2	-0.00007	-0.0002	-0.00006
MDMA	-0.018	-0.054	-0.015
MDMA*Middle Eastern	-0.002	-0.011	-0.003
MDMA*Minority	0.011	0.015	0.01
MDMA*Non-Minority F	0.01	-0.017	0.01
Education	Yes	Yes	Yes
Geography	Yes	Yes	Yes
Industry	Yes	Yes	Yes
N	2,709,507	255,247	2,454,260
R	0.2124	0.0796	0.2216



Conclusion

In conclusion, although Middle Eastern Americans cannot be added to the current MBE program at this time, by conducting outreach for constituents applying as “other” and by expanding the state’s data collection the Commission can work with MDOT to regularly evaluate and determine whether current approaches are effective and consider any new measures that will be legally supported. In this manner, as more quantitative data is collected, MDOT and the Commission will have a better understanding of the inclusion of Middle Eastern-owned firms to the MBE program.

Below are the listed recommendations from NERA to help better assess the current wellbeing of persons of Middle Eastern ancestry in regards to the Maryland MBE program.

Recommendations

Increase Certification Outreach and Assistance

- The Maryland MBE program provides applicants with an opportunity to apply for certification under an individual basis – the Office of MBE should increase efforts to ensure awareness of this process
- In order to better serve the community, a revision of the MBE/DBE program website is also proposed in order to emphasize that others can apply on an individual basis, such as members of other groups such as persons of Middle Eastern ancestry
- In addition, to better serve constituents through the application process it is advised that the current forms include instructions to better explain the term “other,” and describe the criteria for individual proof of social and economic disadvantage
- Lastly, it is suggested that MDOT increase their outreach to Middle Eastern-owned firms to better publicize the individual process and answer questions on how to access it

Collect Additional Data

- The recommendations from NERA advised Maryland to begin to create its own data on utilization on individual contracts and associated subcontracts by adding the category of Middle Eastern American to its current data and collection protocols
- To build on the data already collected in the first report, Maryland should also continue collecting anecdotal testimony about the discrimination faced by Middle Eastern American business owners

Short Term Goals: Meet with Middle Eastern business associations, state government agencies, embassy officials, and local chambers of commerce to help promote business between Maryland and the region

Action: In April of 2013, Governor Martin O’Malley along with a delegation of over 30 business, civic and higher education leaders traveled to Jordan, Israel and Palestine on an economic mission. The weeklong mission was organized and led by the Maryland/Israel Development Center. Executive Director Barry Bogage also serves as the co-Chair of the Business Committee for the Governor’s Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs.

The mission began in Amman, Jordan where the Governor met with the Regent, His Royal Highness Prince Faisal bin Al-Hussein. During the trip, Governor O’Malley stated “We see great potential to strengthen our export relationship with Jordan, and also promote Maryland as the gateway to U.S. markets for Jordanian businesses. It was an honor to meet with the Regent, who, along with King Abdullah II, understands the importance of reaching

across borders to explore new trade and investment opportunities that will benefit not just Maryland and Jordan, but the global economy.” Currently, Jordan is among the top 60 countries which Maryland exports to. The State’s main export to the country is transportation equipment.

During the Governor’s mission in Israel, he was afforded the opportunity to meet both President Shimon Peres and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The Governor stated “Meeting with President Peres and Prime Minister Netanyahu was a tremendous honor. Their tireless dedication to peace for Israel and the entire region is an inspiration not just for the citizens here, but the world over. We look forward to strengthening the deep and historic relationship between Maryland and Israel and growing as partners in peace and prosperity.”

In addition to the high level meetings in Jordan and Israel, the Governor visited Ramallah, Palestine and met with Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority, Salam Fayyad. For about an hour in the Mukataa, the Authority’s headquarters in Ramallah, Governor O’Malley and Fayyad discussed Middle Eastern issues and relations between Israel and Palestine. A U.S.-educated economist with a Ph.D. from the University of Texas, Austin, Fayyad announced his resignation in mid-April but was asked by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to stay in the position until a new government can be formed.

The mission to the Middle East, organized through the Maryland/Israel Development Center, demonstrated the Administration’s commitment to strengthening ties between Maryland and the Middle East. Through promoting expanded business opportunities, cultural education and mutually beneficial programs, the Commission is committed to participating and advising the Administration on action steps to ensure that the progress from the mission continues. The Commission is also very appreciative of the continued work of the Maryland/Israel Development Center’s commitment to sustaining a strong relationship between Maryland and Israel.

Goal: Meet with Middle Eastern business associations, state government agencies, embassy officials, and local chambers of commerce to help promote business between Maryland and the region

Action: In April of 2013, Governor Martin O’Malley along with a delegation of over 30 business, civic and higher education leaders traveled to Jordan, Israel and Palestine on an economic mission. The weeklong mission was organized and led by the Maryland/Israel Development Center. Executive Director Barry Bogage also serves as the co-Chair of the Business Committee for the Governor’s Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs.

The mission began in Amman, Jordan where the Governor met with the Regent, His Royal Highness Prince Faisal bin Al-Hussein. During the trip, Governor O’Malley stated “We see great potential to strengthen our export relationship with Jordan, and also promote Maryland as the gateway to U.S. markets for Jordanian businesses. It was an honor to meet with the Regent, who, along with King Abdullah II, understands the importance of reaching across borders to explore new trade and investment opportunities that will benefit not just Maryland and Jordan, but the global economy.” Currently, Jordan is among the top 60 countries which Maryland exports to. The State’s main export to the country is transportation equipment.

During the Governor’s mission in Israel, he was afforded the opportunity to meet both President Shimon Peres and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The Governor stated “Meeting with President Peres and Prime Minister Netanyahu was a tremendous honor. Their tireless dedication to peace for Israel and the entire region is an inspiration not just for the citizens here, but the world over. We look forward to strengthening the deep and historic relationship between Maryland and Israel and growing as partners in peace and prosperity.”



In addition to the high level meetings in Jordan and Israel, the Governor visited Ramallah, Palestine and met with Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority, Salam Fayyad. For about an hour in the Mukataa, the Authority's headquarters in Ramallah, Governor O'Malley and Fayyad discussed Middle Eastern issues and relations between Israel and Palestine. A U.S.-educated economist with a Ph.D. from the University of Texas, Austin, Fayyad announced his resignation in mid-April but was asked by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to stay in the position until a new government can be formed.

The mission to the Middle East, organized through the Maryland/Israel Development Center, demonstrated the Administration's commitment to strengthening ties between Maryland and the Middle East. Through promoting expanded business opportunities, cultural education and mutually beneficial programs, the Commission is committed to participating and advising the Administration on action steps to ensure that the progress from the mission continues. The Commission is also very appreciative of the continued work of the Maryland/Israel Development Center's commitment to sustaining a strong relationship between Maryland and Israel.

Community Development

Goal: To develop and implement programs to highlight and discuss women's initiatives

Actions: On May 5, 2013 the Governor's Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs hosted their first Middle Eastern Women: Perceptions & Realities Summit. The event was hosted by Anne Arundel Community College and hosted women of the Jewish, Muslim and Christian faith. The Commission hosted:

- Dr. Salwa Elgebaly, Commissioner and Event Chair
- Mr. Anwer Hasan, Commission Chair
- Dr. Dawn Lindsay, President, Anne Arundel Community College
- Mrs. Nancy Kopp, State of Maryland Treasurer
- Marjan Keypour Greenbelt, Deputy Director, Israel on Campus Coalition
- Dr. Susan Douglass, Arab Studies, Georgetown University Center for Contemporary Arab Studies

The panel discussion brought together women representing the three Abrahamic religions and discussing their role, their experiences and their insight of the role of Middle Eastern women. In addition, there was a cultural showcase sharing various books, art, music and dance to represent our diverse community.

The goal of the event was to celebrate the diverse faith, the heritage and rich culture of the Middle Eastern American community. As a commission, there is a commitment to educating and raising awareness to alleviate misconceptions, to promote understanding, and to build friendships in our communities. By bringing this event to the campus of Anne Arundel Community College, the Commission was also able to engage in the college's Muslim Oral History Project. The project was developed after the tragic events of September 11, 2001. The project aims to counter Islamophobia by educating the community about Islam and the culture of the Middle East.

In addition to the Muslim Oral History Project, the college has additional programs focusing on women and diversity such as Curriculum Transformation Project (ICT) and the Women's Institute. The ICT Project was created to help faculty members incorporate issues of diversity into their courses and to support the College's commitment to diversity. The Women's Institute's mission is to enrich and empower women. The Institute offers a full range of noncredit classes and events designed to explore new areas of interest, teach new skills and impart valuable information.

The Commission chose Anne Arundel Community College for their initiatives focusing on diversity, Middle Eastern studies and women empowerment. As the Commission moves forward in 2014, there will be a continued effort to maintain this type of programming to educate and promote awareness focusing on women in our diverse Middle Eastern community.





2013 Legislative Night

Goal: Promote events engaging the Governor and key stakeholders in the community

Action: In an effort to engage our community leaders, organizations and individuals the Commission hosted its second annual Legislative Night. The night was made possible by our event sponsors:

- The United Maryland Muslim Council
- The Baltimore Jewish Council
- The Howard County Muslim Council
- The Jewish Community Relations Council
- The Frederick County Muslim Council
- Idara Jaferia, Burtonsville
- The Middle Eastern American Chamber of Commerce
- St. George Antiochian Church
- St. Peter and Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church
- Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation

A unique characteristic of the Commission's Middle Eastern American Legislative Night is the ability to bring together our faith based communities to celebrate the community's diversity and to emphasize the many commonalities between the Middle Eastern American communities. Focusing on the Administration's priorities of 2013, the Commission highlighted Maryland's Offshore Wind Energy Act, the Firearms Safety Act and the Public-Private Partnerships.

Over 400 people participated in the second annual Legislative Night along with the Governor, Lt. Governor, representatives from Middle Eastern Embassies, and elected and appointed officials.

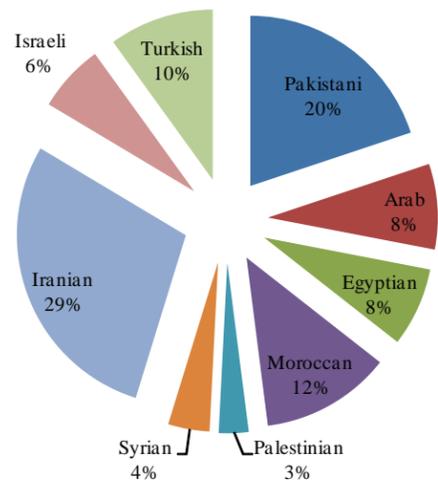




MARYLAND DEMOGRAPHICS

As an effort to get a better snap shot of the Middle Eastern American in Maryland the Commission has pulled data from the American Community Survey to better understand the community. The following graphs depict the information from the American Community Survey. But, the Commission would like to emphasize that these are merely estimates. There is an initiative to include the Middle Eastern American community as a separate subgroup in the U.S. Census to get a better count, but in the mean time this is the closest data for the use of the Commission:

Total Population



Ethnicity	Estimate
Pakistani	10063
Arab	4108
Egyptian	3816
Moroccan	6284
Palestinian	1434
Syrian	2004
Iranian	14561
Israeli	3268
Turkish	5049
Total Population	50587

School Enrollment

Ethnicity	Population 3 years and over enrolled in school	Nursery school, preschool	Kindergarten	Elementary school	High school	College or graduate
Pakistani	3658	210	235	1434	656	1123
Arab	1297	66	115	431	248	437
Egyptian	1237	135	109	246	187	560
Lebanese	2069	213	88	658	317	793
Moroccan	720	29	57	199	131	304
Palestinian	446	71	44	126	49	156
Syrian	648	42	70	155	65	316
Iranian	4563	167	265	1002	1007	2122
Israeli	1156	121	55	366	247	367
Turkish	1598	29	68	571	253	677
Total Population	17392	1083	1106	5188	3160	6855

Educational Attainment

Ethnicity	Population over 25 years and over	Less than 9th grade	9th to 12th grade, no diploma	High school graduate	Some college, no degree	Associate's degree	Bachelor's degree	Graduate or professional degree
Pakistani	5737	280	383	782	636	352	1785	1519
Arab	2298	161	87	290	349	166	591	654
Egyptian	2506	59	18	326	149	19	1077	858
Lebanese	4204	46	124	513	570	267	1286	1398
Moroccan	1608	45	158	396	281	139	443	146
Palestinian	973	11	23	193	184	100	219	243
Syrian	1314	49	24	173	223	103	367	375
Iranian	10199	317	159	1439	1172	575	3135	3402
Israeli	1920	24	72	225	279	92	700	528
Turkish	3560	156	69	679	318	295	926	1117
Total Population	34319	1148	1117	5016	4161	2108	10529	10240

Place of Birth

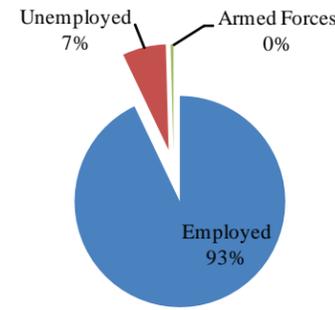
Ethnicity	Native	Foreign Born
Pakistani	3019	7044
Arab	2054	2054
Egyptian	1642	2174
Lebanese	4509	1775
Moroccan	1414	892
Palestinian	945	489
Syrian	1546	458
Iranian	4433	10128
Israeli	1883	1385
Turkish	2277	2772
Total Population	23722	29171

U.S. Citizenship

Ethnicity	Naturalized Citizen	Non-Citizen
Pakistani	4130	2914
Arab	1477	577
Egyptian	1738	436
Lebanese	1259	516
Moroccan	467	425
Palestinian	344	145
Syrian	277	181
Iranian	7001	3127
Israeli	650	735
Turkish	1287	1485
Total Population	18630	10541



Employment Status



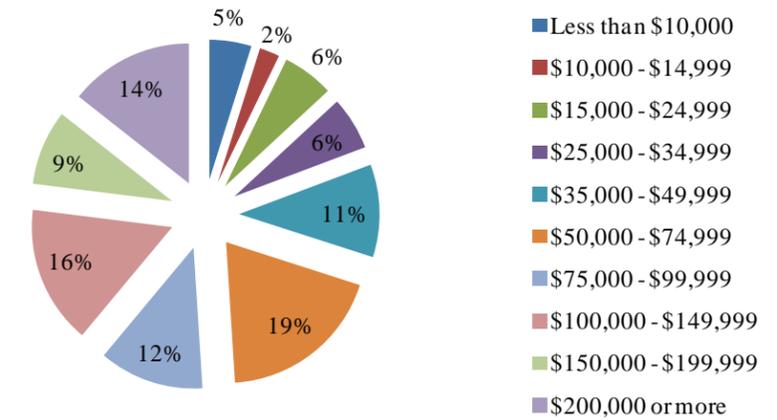
Ethnicity	Population 16 years and over	In labor force	Employed	Unemployed	Armed Forces	Not in labor force
Pakistani	7280	5059	4856	203	0	2221
Arab	2846	2045	1882	123	40	801
Egyptian	3094	2195	2089	87	19	899
Lebanese	5010	3662	3430	221	11	1348
Moroccan	1833	1200	1135	65	0	633
Palestinian	1108	876	813	63	0	232
Syrian	1592	1163	1083	63	17	429
Iranian	12272	8539	7702	765	42	3733
Israeli	2428	1632	1510	122	0	796
Turkish	4042	2983	2741	242	0	1059
Total Population	41505	29354	27241	1954	129	12151

Occupation



Ethnicity	Civilian Employed population 16 and over	Management, business, science, and arts occupations	Service occupations	Sales and office occupations	Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	Production, transportation, and material moving occupations
Pakistani	4856	1954	461	1410	171	860
Arab	1882	1190	233	236	51	172
Egyptian	2089	1236	257	463	68	65
Lebanese	3430	2352	292	543	120	123
Moroccan	1135	497	190	248	102	98
Palestinian	813	467	71	178	60	37
Syrian	1083	615	93	313	30	32
Iranian	7702	4471	708	1742	289	492
Israeli	1510	866	183	315	59	87
Turkish	2741	1622	520	401	109	89
Total Population	27241	15270	3008	5849	1059	2055

Household Income



Ethnicity	Total Households	Less than \$10,000	\$10,000 - \$14,999	\$15,000 - \$24,999	\$25,000 - \$34,999	\$35,000 - \$49,999	\$50,000 - \$74,999	\$75,000 - \$99,999	\$100,000 - \$149,999	\$150,000 - \$199,999	\$200,000 or more
Pakistani	2480	0	70	230	316	343	441	278	321	168	313
Arab	1142	39	40	21	51	107	222	226	226	67	143
Egyptian	1340	113	0	48	72	146	212	205	133	143	268
Lebanese	2240	54	0	54	81	162	541	155	461	231	501
Moroccan	673	0	5	109	42	88	95	112	66	76	80
Palestinian	571	23	14	31	15	23	83	80	149	72	81
Syrian	806	42	28	41	30	64	127	110	177	71	116
Iranian	5598	401	245	337	349	606	1055	487	880	496	742
Israeli	1026	31	12	31	64	93	238	123	220	65	149
Turkish	1956	164	0	157	78	267	386	380	199	150	175
Total Population	17832	867	414	1059	1098	1899	3400	2156	2832	1539	2568

School Enrollment

Ethnicity	Population 3 years and over enrolled in school	Nursery school, preschool	Kindergarten	Elementary school	High school	College or graduate
Pakistani	3658	210	235	1434	656	1123
Arab	1297	66	115	431	248	437
Egyptian	1237	135	109	246	187	560
Lebanese	2069	213	88	658	317	793
Moroccan	720	29	57	199	131	304
Palestinian	446	71	44	126	49	156
Syrian	648	42	70	155	65	316
Iranian	4563	167	265	1002	1007	2122
Israeli	1156	121	55	366	247	367
Turkish	1598	29	68	571	253	677
Total Population	17392	1083	1106	5188	3160	6855

Governor's Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs

301 W. Preston Street, 15th Floor
Baltimore, MD 21201
410-767-7925 (Phone)
410-333-7542 (Fax)

1-800-735-2258 (Maryland Relay)
MidEast@goci.state.md.us (Email)
www.middleeastern.maryland.gov (Website)

Martin O'Malley, Governor
Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor
Israel C. "Izzy" Patoka, Executive Director,
Governor's Office of Community Initiatives
Iman Awad, Special Assistant

