



THE ISLAMIC COMMUNITY OF TAMPA BAY * MASJID al-QASSAM

5910 East 130th Avenue, Tampa, Florida 33617

Telephone: (813) 985-9433

September 10, 1994

INS
Eastern Service Center,
Saint Albans, Vt.

Re: 1-360 Petition on behalf of Ramadan Shallah

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Islamic Community of Tampa is a religious not for profit organization. We are an affiliated member of the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) and derive our tax exempt status under 501(c)3 of the IRS Code through them. Our organization was established in 1987 to serve the needs of the Muslim community in the Tampa area. We bought land in 1987 and erected a mosque (Muslim House of Worship) on it in 1988. At the mosque we offer the five daily congregational prayers, the khutba (Friday sermon), solemnization of wedding ceremonies, celebration of the Eids (Islamic holy days), funeral services for the deceased, a weekend religious school for children, and various other religious activities. The number of Muslims has been steadily growing over the last few years and there are currently over 500 members at our mosque.

At this time we are in need of a full time Imam (Muslim Minister) to serve our community. His duties will be to lead the five daily prayers, give the Friday sermon, shroud the deceased for prayer and burial, teach the recitation of the Quran (Muslim Holy Book), give lessons on Islamic teachings and principles, and be available to the Muslim community for any religious needs they may have.

Imam Ramadan is an ideal candidate for this position. He is a devout Muslim, who has lived his entire life in exemplary Muslim fashion. He memorized the entire Quran by the age of 15. He has degree in Islamic Studies and he taught Islamic Studies at the Islamic University of Gaza from 1982 to 1986. While he was receiving his degree in England, he served as Imam to the Islamic community of Durham from 1986 to 1991. In 1991, Imam Ramadan came to the U.S. to lecture on various topics of the Islamic religion. Since January of 1992, Imam Ramadan has been volunteering his time and services as Imam for our community on a continuous basis, while doing research in an Islamic foundation on Islamic issues. We are very pleased with Imam Ramadan's work and qualifications and would like to have him work as our permanent full time Imam.

We will pay him an annual salary of \$30,000.00 plus health insurance and vacation time. He will never be dependent on supplemental employment or solicitation of funds. We ask that you look with favor upon our request. Thank you for your cooperation.



Sincerely,

Sami A. Al-Arian
Sami Al-Arian
Chairman