



In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

The Islamic Society of Central Jersey

A Non-Profit Tax Exempt Organization, Tax ID # 22-2086228

4145 Rte 1 South & Rte 522
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SUBJECT: CAMPAIGN TO KEEP OUR MASJID & SCHOOL CLEAN

Assalamu Aliakom,

This is an invitation to all of us to participate in implementing a basic Islamic standard:

“To Be Clean is Part of Iman”

”النظافة من الايمان”

Several observations have been repeatedly made that the cleanness standard at ISCJ premises are not up to the codes that we as Muslims should strive to achieve. In our pursuit of other priorities for our children and our community, this basic standard of our glorious religion has been neglected. Cleanness of an environment reflects the cleanness of the individuals that are part of that environment. This concept is particularly critical at ISCJ premises that embody places of worship and educational enlightenment that should be honored.

ISCJ already signed a contract for professional cleaning of ISCJ premises and NUI modular units. This will start May 1, 2009. However, we must realize that even an army of cleaning professionals cannot solve our cleaning problems if we do not help from within. To achieve this objective we should start by establishing, promoting, and strictly enforcing cleaning standards. There is also need to have a plan with assigned responsibilities, and monitoring and reporting mechanism to be followed. The following measures are fundamental to the success of this objective.

Cleaning Awareness:

A plan to enhance our community's awareness of the fundamental need to keep our premises clean as a basic tenet of our glorious religion should be implemented. The Religious Committee, ISCJ Imam, ISCJ Youth Coordinator, and the managements of NUI and the Weekend School should participate and promote this cleaning awareness campaign. This message should be conveyed and repeated consistently to our community until an acceptable adherence is achieved. Parents should be officially notified to take an active role in this campaign by emphasizing to their children the need for strict respect and adherence to the established standards.

Establishing and Promoting Cleaning Standards:

These standards should be recommended by the three entities from time to time and should be established and announced as the codes to be strictly respected. Some of these standards include, but are not limited to:

- Teach our children the basic need to respect the environment and keep it clean and safe. This is particularly important in relation to the Masjid area as a place of worship, and the classrooms as an equally respected place for educational enlightenment. The teaching of those standards should be basic in NUI and the Weekend School curriculums.
- Teach our children that littering is punishable by law outside our premises. This should be equally applied on our premises.
- Teach our children how to use the bathrooms and the Wudu facilities:
 - Keep them dry, clean, and safe for the next person to use them.



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- Not to be wasteful in using water and paper towels and not to litter the bathrooms floors.
 - To turn the lights off before leaving the bathroom.
 - Teach our children not to use staplers to hang celebration items on the walls as they could damage the walls, which require frequent costly maintenance. If tapes are used, they should be removed carefully after each event.
 - Instruct our children not to sharpen their pencils on the floors that would leave stains that are hard to remove, and use the classroom sharpeners instead.
 - Teach our children to clean after themselves at the end of every activity, and not to rely on a cleaning team to remove their litter. This is particularly important in the Masjid area where food leftover and plastic bottles are left after l'tikaf, which is contradictory to the spiritual objective of this religious activity.
 - Teach our children that the Masjid area is a place to pray not a place to play. This would help keep the Masjid area clean and free from noise.

Respect the Use of Shared Facilities

- The conference rooms and the library that are shared by all entities should be left clean and tidy for the next use. They should not be used for storage or as a dump area. The last entity to use them should be responsible to maintain this requirement.
- The kitchen and all its appliances should be left clean and organized. Food items in the refrigerators should be checked from time to time to ensure removing and properly disposing of spoiled items. Boiler and electricity rooms should not be used for storage and should be kept clean. This is a basic safety code to be strictly observed.
- Stored items should be left in storage rooms after use and not to be stored as a convenience in other places. ISCJ currently has 4 storage areas and additional storage shed maybe acquired to provide more storage room. ISCJ Administrator is the person responsible for the use of those storage areas.
- Chairs and tables should not be left outdoors overnight. This practice causes rust and damage to the furniture and clutters our premises outdoors.
- Township's recycling rules should be strictly respected. Special containers should be provided and properly marked to facilitate adherence.
- Outdoor wastebaskets should be emptied frequently and should not be left over night with being tightly covered to avoid attracting scavenging animals, snakes and bugs from the surrounding areas.
- Shoes should be kept in the assigned shelve areas and not be left cluttering the corridors and entrances to the Masjid area which could cause tripping accidents.
- Instruct our children that the public telephone in ISCJ's main entrance is strictly use for security purposes and should not be used to make prank calls to emergency authorities. Parent's of violating children should be responsible for their children's' acts.

It should be emphasized that the objectives to increase awareness to keep our premises clean and enhance adherence to cleaning standards is a joint responsibility. The above requirements are intended to be the basics that should be detailed and documented by feedback from each of the areas responsible for implementation.

May Allah (swt) guide us all in the pursuit of this basic religious objective.

Jazakum Allah Khair,



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