

INFOCUS

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MAY 2005

City of Anaheim Reaches Out to its Muslim and Arab Communities

By Ahmad Al Halabi

About fifty people attended a Business and Police Forum which was held on April 12th at the Brookhurst Community Center in a series of forums to educate the community of Anaheim about upcoming business opportunities. It was hosted by the Anaheim Chamber of Commerce and its Police Department, who have worked to connect with the community through involvement in community events and offering programs to the public.

The Anaheim Police Department has been actively conducting diversity trainings for its officers, and is currently seeking volunteers and employees to fill forty positions by next year. Anaheim Chief of Police

John Welter mentioned that the lack of Muslims and Arabs in the police department is affecting the community negatively. He also encouraged participation in Anaheim Citizen Police Academy P.A.C.E "Public Awareness through Citizen Education" a program that teaches citizens how the police department work on a daily basis, and encourages the community to establish personal contacts with police officers.



Ra'id Faraj, Public Relations Director from the Council on American-Islamic Relations thanked the police

department for its involvement in the Muslim Community and for extending a hand to create a better relationship between the two.

Kate Marrs, Membership Sales Representative from the Anaheim Chamber of Commerce had a surprise for business owners. She announced that whoever opens a new business between April 15 and July 29, 2005 will receive a free business license for a year and a complimentary one year membership to the Chamber

of Commerce. Mrs. Marrs also invited everyone in the community to participate and attend the "Taste of Anaheim", an annual exposition that invites restaurants in Anaheim to present samples of their food to the community. This year's event will be held on June 27. More information can be found at www.anaheimchamber.org.

The evening's event was sponsored by the Orange County Human Relations Commission, the City of Anaheim, Anaheim Police Department, the Council on American-Islamic Relations, ACCESS California Services, American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, Arab American Chamber of Commerce, and the Anaheim Chamber of Commerce.