

In the name of Allah, The Beneficent, The Merciful

ISLAMIC ASSOCIATION OF LONG ISLAND, INC.

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Summary of the Constitution and the By-laws Amendments

(Based on the Joint Board of Trustees resolution – Friday, Oct 22nd, 2021)

AsalamuAlaikum. The Joint Board of Trustees (“JTBD”) of Islamic Association of Long Island, Inc., Selden Masjid (“IALI”), in response to the report and recommendations of IALI’s Constitution Review Committee, will be scheduling a ballot proposition in the near future, pursuant to which members constituting the General Body of IALI will get to vote on whether certain proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws should be approved. These amendments are recommended in order to further protect the interest of IALI, improve the day-to-day management of our Masjid/Center and to ensure diversity in our governing bodies. The key provisions of the proposed amendments are summarized below. Parenthetical references are to the Constitution and By-Laws provisions to be amended; draft is available on our website at <https://seldenmasjid.org/iali-constitution-and-the-by-laws>.

Diversity and Manpower Needs

Recognizing that social sector organizations (nonprofits) are better able to do their work effectively and with transparency when they are led by boards that are diverse and inclusive, the Constitution would be amended to provide for two reserved seats on the Board of Trustees and one on the Executive Committee, which members are to be appointed by the Joint Board of Trustees. In making the appointments, priority would be given to increasing diversity in IALI’s governing bodies. The creation of the three additional governing body positions will also improve IALI’s administrative efficiency in performing the day-to-day tasks needed to operate then masjid. (Constitution: Articles 4.7, 6.1, 7.1 and 9.4; By Laws: Article – 3.3).

Background and Credit Worthiness Check

Nonprofit organizations must be above reproach when it comes to the fiduciary responsibility of managing finances, and as such, Joint Board members with access to bank accounts and financial transactions, in general, must be individuals of the highest integrity. Accordingly, the Constitution would be amended to provide that Joint Board members with such access may be subjected to background checks. This provision would be limited to new applicants and would only apply to positions with bank access, i.e., President, Secretary, Treasurer, Chairman, Vice Chairman and one other designated BOT member. (Constitution: Article 9.2).

Educational Affairs Committee (“EAC”)

Both the structure and responsibilities of this committee as well as its sub-committees would be refined to (1) streamline the process by which educational programs are offered at Selden Masjid; and (2) provide for much needed additional oversight and accountability by the Joint Board of Trustees. (By Laws: Article – 8).