

U.S.Army Corps of Engineers,  
Rock Island District,  
Attn: Karen Hagerty, Project Manager  
Clock Tower Building  
P.O.Box 2004  
Rock Island, IL 61204

January 4, 2003

Dear Karen Hagerty,

I am writing to you this letter in support of the proposed "Muslim Youth Camp".

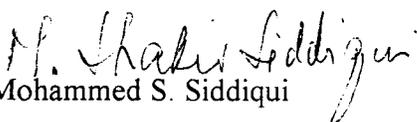
As you know it well, the campground was being used for decades as a summer retreat for Girl Scouts. It did not make any problem for the surrounding community. Now the proposed youth camp will also not add any further problems of noise, traffic, waste water, wells and zoning. A scientific analysis of the problems mentioned can rest the concerns of the residents in the surrounding communities.

There was also a concern from some residents about not wanting muslims in their backyards. One person has even said that he does not want a terrorists hiding place nearby. I believe this needs educating the community about muslims to alleviate their fears about the unknown. As you know, muslims are a part of this country's landscape. There are muslims in all branches of the armed forces – army, navy, air force, marines and coast guard – defending the country. They are recognized by all branches as a distinct group, and for their positive contributions for the defense of the country. Now is the right time to educate the concerned citizens about muslims so that we can have a better interaction among various groups of citizens living here in the U.S.

Overwhelming majority of the muslims are peace-loving and law-abiding citizens. No one has to fear anything from them. I believe the camp will prove to be an asset to the community, and may contribute positively to the economy there. It will be against the law to discriminate against them on the basis of race or religion.

I believe you will act positively on the proposal.

Thank you,

  
Mohammed S. Siddiqui

P.O.Box 653,  
Totowa, NJ 07511-0653