



April 14, 2010

**Letter to the Times Union Editor**

We at OneJax, an interfaith organization whose mission is to promote respect and understanding among people of different religions, races, cultures and beliefs, must go on record to express our dismay and disappointment at the actions of the City Council regarding the delay of a vote to approve the Mayor's nomination of Dr. Parvez Ahmed to the Jacksonville Human Rights Commission.

Dr. Ahmed, a longtime UNF professor, Board member of our organization, and Fulbright Scholar, works tirelessly in this community to unify people across cultures, races, and religions. His human relations track record locally, nationally and internationally speaks volumes about his integrity, dedication, and competence. Dr. Ahmed embodies the guiding principles of our organization:

- Respect:** We respect and value every person's human dignity.
- Unity:** We celebrate our common humanity and honor our differences.
- Courage:** We stand together and speak out when oppression hurts people.
- Integrity:** We live the principles we talk about in our everyday lives.
- Accountability:** We act accountably with those we serve and with those who support us.

We ask that our City Council embrace these principles, refuse to give further credence to attempts at cultural stereotyping, and approve the nomination of Dr. Ahmed to the Jacksonville Human Rights Commission.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B Ezell".

Brenda B. Ezell  
Board Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Celeste Krueger".

Celeste Krueger, Ed.S.  
Executive Director