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August 25, 2022

Dear Community Members,

This past Friday, the Religious Council met to discuss and provide a unified message to our community about the direction we are headed as a Mashadi family. On Shabbat, Rabbis in all UMJCA synagogues delivered strong messages reminding us of our Mashadi Jewish values. They spoke about values such as honesty, integrity, humility, and modesty. They spoke of our family values and, of course, our faith in Hashem.

Although it was recent incidents that compelled our Rabbis to speak up at this time, these concerns about our values have been emerging in our community for a long time. Recent events have served as a wake-up call for us as a community but the issues we face go well beyond recent events. These challenges are similar to those faced in the wider Great Neck community and beyond. We must face these challenges as a community, as a family, with love for one another.

We believe in Jewish values and education. Our recently implemented after school Jewish education program is an opportunity to emphasize Jewish values and Mashadi Minhagim. Our future children's day school, G-d willing, will be essential for laying the foundation of modesty and respectful behavior for our children.

The Central Board will work closely with the Religious Council to deliver timely messages to the community in the coming months. Our Rabbis have the support of the Central Board to convey messages that emphasize our Jewish values and Mashadi values to both the youth and to adults.

There will also be a greater emphasis on drug and alcohol abuse awareness. Programs will be geared not only towards the children but the parents as well. In the coming weeks, the Central Board will put forth a plan of action to help tackle these issues.

We pride ourselves on our closeness to one another. It is a unique Mashadi Community blessing that we should cherish and protect. Let us avoid division and Lashon Hara. When our community faces challenges as we do today, we will work through them together, G-d willing, with love and respect for each other, as we have in the past.

Sincerely,

UMJCA Central Board

<b>President:</b> Jonathan Hazghiyani (Hezghia)	<b>Chairperson:</b> Benny Hematian	<b>Executive Secretary:</b> Nasi Gorjian	<b>Board Members:</b> Farid Aziz Morris Aziz Marty Bassaly Khandan Kalaty Babak Kamali Mehran Kohanim Effy Namdar
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<b>Vice President of Community Center:</b> Omid Hakimi	<b>Co - Treasurer:</b> Andy Levian		