

game for political discussion. By the way, Dalati has not responded to my attempt to talk to him about local government issues.

You can read Steve's entire post [here](#).

I have yet to see Dalati or his defenders directly, substantively respond to the issues highlighted in Steel's e-mail regarding Dalati's donation to Cynthia McKinney; Dalati's defense of allowing an Islamic marriage contract conclude in a foreign country to supersede American civil divorce law; and his co-sponsorship of a protest entitled "Rally Against U.S.-Israeli Terror in Palestine and Lebanon."

Instead, Dalati's defenders attempt to shut down any debate on those points by shouting down Dalati's critics as "racists" and "Islamophobes." That's mob behavior, not honest debate.

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Posted by Jubal on October 16, 2006 at 09:56 AM | [Permalink](#)

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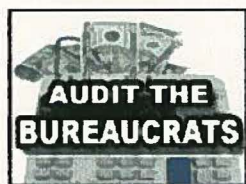
#### Comments

All politics is local, I suppose. While local Democrats are leaping to the defense of Mr. Dalati and the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), national Democrats have blasted CAIR as having "ties to terrorism."

While there are certainly reasonable individual members of CAIR, I do not at all find the group's leadership mainstream. And, don't just take my word for it; allow me to quote the #2 Democrat in the U.S. Senate, Dick Durbin who said that CAIR "is unusual in its extreme rhetoric and its association with groups that are suspect." Meanwhile, the senior Senator from New York, Democrat Charles Schumer, the chair of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, said CAIR "has ties to terrorism."

In addition, the founders of CAIR, Mr. Nihad Awad and Mr. Omar Ahmad have said some interesting things that should influence our political consideration of Mr. Bill Dalati, given his support of CAIR. To wit, Mr. Awad's declaration "I'm in support of the Hamas movement." And Mr. Ahmad's illuminating statement that suicide bombers "kill themselves for Islam" while justifying their actions as "Fighting for freedom, fighting for Islam, that is not suicide. They kill themselves for Islam."





Given that Mr. Dalati's prior public record seems almost entirely focused on Middle Eastern affairs, rather than the affairs of the City of Anaheim or the State of California, the debate over his ties to CAIR and what it means to how he might pursue public policies goals is perfectly legitimate.

Lastly, I'll grant my understanding of Islam and the Middle East may not be as complete as others - I've only lived in Egypt for half a year and while there I've visited Israel and Lebanon, being shot at by the Syrian Army in the latter nation, and later traveled to Morocco, Egypt, Pakistan and Turkey on government business. But, I'd certainly match my study of Islamic political thought at the American University in Cairo against any casual American observer.

All the best,

Chuck DeVore  
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Posted by: [Chuck DeVore](#) | October 16, 2006 at 10:25 AM

The original message from Shawn Steel was simply a piece of politically motivated slime, and deserved to be shot down on that basis alone. Steel - much to his credit! - did offer references. On reading I found nothing "scary" ... rather at least a hint Dalati might be very happy to be an American citizen and a solid fan of free enterprise.

The office of city councilman in Anaheim is far more of local than international import. The real question is whether Dalati is suitable for the office he seeks. If you had never heard of Dalati before (as I had not), then you have to be curious about the character of the guy in question.

This guilt-by-association nonsense has got to stop. The question is what Dalati wants to do for Anaheim. Is he a good neighbor? Does he want to contribute to the local community? Is he an advocate for the city?

Posted by: [Preston L. Bannister](#) | October 16, 2006 at 12:20 PM

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