



**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

JOSH STEIN
GOVERNOR

February 11, 2025

Our Three Winners Foundation
1721 Broadway # 201
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Our Three Winners Foundation,

This evening, you gather to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the murders of Deah Barakat, Yusor Abu-Salha, and Razan Abu-Salha, who were killed in their Chapel Hill home in a horrific hate crime. I join you in gratitude for the opportunity to honor these three young people with the screening of "36 Seconds: Portrait of a Hate Crime." The documentary is a moving tribute to Deah, Yusor, and Razan — and to their families' fight for justice.

I want to thank Tarek Albaba for his eight years of work on this documentary. His dedication to telling this story created not only a moving tribute to the victims, but also an illuminating portrait of how this single act of violence reverberated through the local and national Muslim community. I also want to thank the Our Three Winners foundation for its work in reducing prejudice towards Muslims and other marginalized communities through advocacy, service, and evidence-based programming. Our Three Winners Foundation, The Light House Project, and the DYOR clinics' collective service have made a significant and lasting impact in North Carolina communities.

It has been 10 years, but the grief for those who loved Deah, Yusor, and Razan is ever present. Their tragic deaths sent shock waves across the UNC and NC State campuses, the state of North Carolina, and the entire nation. They left behind profound legacies of faith, service, and compassion. The Barakat and Abu-Salha families' resilience and vocal advocacy in the aftermath of the tragedy is both an inspiration and a sobering reminder that we must all do our part to fight for a more just world.

The senseless loss of these promising young lives continues to remind us that there is no home for violence or Islamophobia in North Carolina. Our state's strength lies in our diversity, our compassion, and our unwavering commitment to equality. Let us feel the gravity of this anniversary and let us honor the three heroes by each doing our part to build a state that is welcoming to all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Stein".

Josh Stein
Governor