

Floor Covering Media

Your Gateway to the Floor Covering Industry

Victoria Islamic Center



The day after a Victoria man was found guilty of purposely setting the Victoria Islamic Center on fire (18 months earlier), the focus has returned to completing the building of the new mosque. Imam Osama Hassan's initial thoughts were that *"the day we lost our mosque, I never thought we could build it again."*

The destroyed Victoria Islamic Center sustained significant fire damage in January 2017. Construction of the new center began in December 2017. Project architect Rawley McCoy estimates that the project should be completed at some point between mid-to-late August 2018.

Following a six-day trial, Marq Vincent Perez of Victoria, Age 26, was found guilty of using fire to commit a federal felony; damaging religious property, which is a hate crime; and possession of a destructive device.



A number of men were observed paving the sidewalk into the front entrance with red bricks while others worked inside. The sound of an electric saw could be heard buzzing on and off through out the property. Progress has moved indoors, according to McCoy, as the construction team is working dilligently on placing the marble flooring, carpeting and painting.

During the design phase of the new building, McCoy said that he traveled to San Antonio and Austin to view mosques, which was helpful understanding the community's religious needs. During construction, weather was a challenge while laying the foundation. But it has not hampered the progress of the project at least so far. The project is almost finished. *"I'm going to be as delighted as everyone when the project is complete"* Mc Coy added.

According to Hassan, *"it's just overwhelming"* referring to a majority of its funds were received from a GoFundMe page, which has raised slightly over \$1.1 million of its \$1.5 million goal. The Victoria Islamic Center is used by about 40 families with 140 people total, Hassan said. But the help with rebuilding has come from well beyond those

Floor Covering Media

Your Gateway to the Floor Covering Industry

families. He said about 23,000 people have donated from about 90 different countries and across the U.S.

Mosque member Omar Rachid, who created the GoFundMe page, said he never imagined it getting this much attention. *"It's an example of humanity at its best,"* Rachid remarked, adding that *"I had no idea it would garner this much attention and donations."* Following the fire, he and other mosque members felt extreme loss and unwelcome within the community.

As he saw people donate and offer services to the reconstruction those feelings began to fade. *"We are extremely excited,"* he said. *"We are getting closer and closer by the day (to completion)."* Rachid said the future is bright as progress continues on the new structure, and he can't wait to use the new mosque. It gives him hope. Rachid added that *"It's something rising out of the ashes."*

Floor Covering Media publishes
press releases called Flooring Updates.



Flooring Network

For those in the market and those that serve it

Floor Covering Media is
a social media network.

Floor Search

Answers to Questions About Flooring

Retrieve timely, objective news and
information at <https://www.floorsearch.info>.