

The New York City Police Department  
and Interfaith Center of New York  
Present

# Public Safety in Today's Multi-Faith New York

Thursday, November 17, 2016  
One Police Plaza, New York, NY

## **PROGRAM**

**5:00 - 5:45 p.m.**  
**Reception**

**5:45 - 5:55 p.m.**  
**Welcome**

*Police Commissioner James P. O' Neill*  
*Deputy Commissioner Susan Herman*

**5:55 - 6:15 p.m.**  
**Video: "Policing in Today's Multi-Faith New York"**

**6:15 - 7:00 p.m.**  
**Panel: Policing in a Multicultural Society**

*Rev. Dr. Alfonso Wyatt (Moderator)*

*Rev. Chloe Breyer*

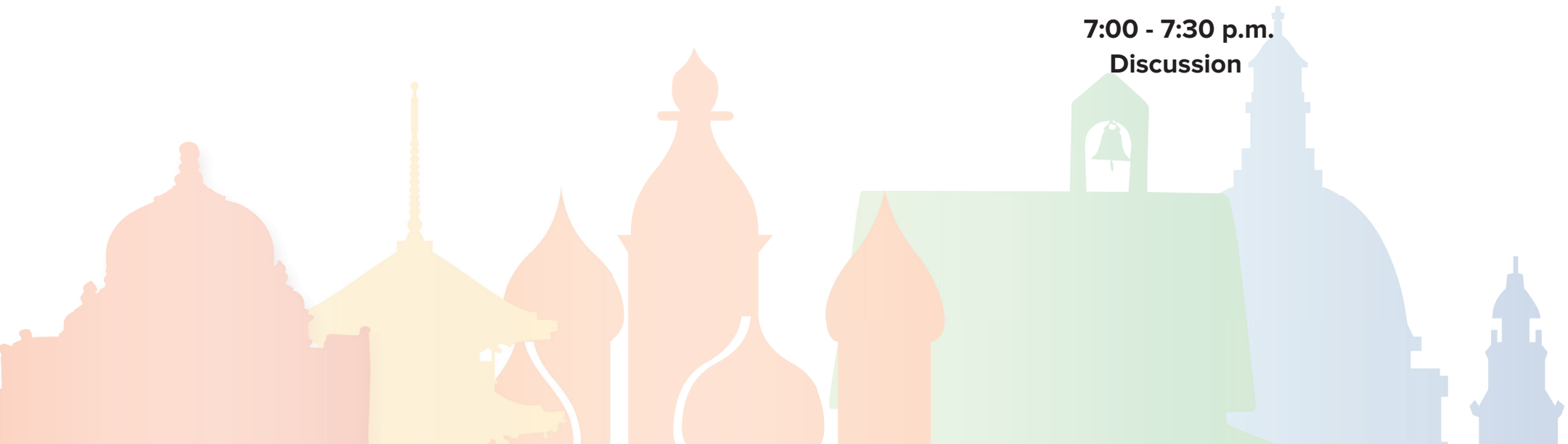
*Rev. Que English*

*Rabbi Robert Kaplan*

*Imam Tahir Kukaj*

*Baba Antonio Mondesíre*

**7:00 - 7:30 p.m.**  
**Discussion**



## Moderator

### **Rev. Dr. Alfonso Wyatt**

*Founder, Strategic Destiny*

Rev. Dr. Alfonso Wyatt is a renowned role model, leader and national speaker on issues affecting children, youth, and families. He is the founder of Strategic Destiny: Designing Futures Through Faith & Facts. Strategic Destiny seeks to find common language and collaborative opportunities with socially engaged practitioners motivated by faith and secular practitioners motivated by evidence-based learning.

Dr. Wyatt attended Howard University, Columbia Teachers College, the Ackerman Institute for Family Therapy, Columbia Business School Institute for Nonprofit Management and the New York Theological Seminary, where he completed his M.Div./D.Min. He worked as an adjunct professor, an advisor to the Office of the President, and an NYTS Board of Trustee member.

He serves on boards of organizations that promote a progressive social agenda that speak to the needs of the “least of these” among us, especially brothers and sisters of all ages in and out of the criminal justice system. He is a founding board member of the Harlem Children’s Zone Promise Academy, and was the former Chair of the 21st Century Foundation, which is now powered by the Tides Foundation.

Dr. Wyatt is married to Evangelist Ouida Wyatt, with whom he has shared 42 years in ministerial partnership and collaborated on several books, including *Soul Be Free: Poems Prose & Prayers*, *Soul Be Free II*, and *Before You Jump the Broom: Clean Up Your Room*. Dr. Wyatt also wrote *Mentoring from the Inside Out: Healing Boys Transforming Men* and *Leadership by Numbers: For God’s People Who Count*.

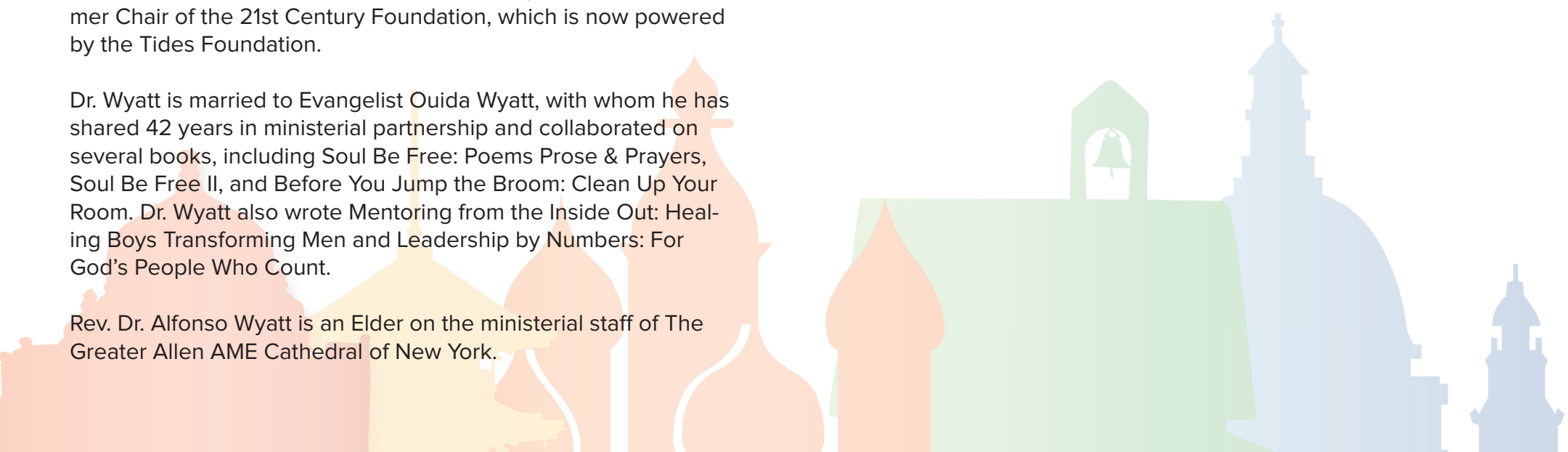
Rev. Dr. Alfonso Wyatt is an Elder on the ministerial staff of The Greater Allen AME Cathedral of New York.

## Panelists

### **Rev. Chloe Breyer**

*Director, Interfaith Center of New York*

Since 2007, the Rev. Chloe Breyer has directed the Interfaith Center of New York, a nationally-recognized nonprofit that works with grassroots religious leaders to catalyze partnerships with civic officials and address social problems in New York City. Issues include police-community relations, immigration concerns, and prisoner reentry. Breyer also serves as an Associate Priest at St. Philip’s Church in Harlem. After 9/11, she worked with NYC’s Afghan community and the Episcopal Diocese of New York to rebuild a bombed mosque in Afghanistan. Since then, she has returned many times for health and education-related projects. Rev. Breyer is a published author and opinion writer. Her Ph. D. work is in Christian Ethics and Islamophobia.



## **Rev. Que English**

*Pastor, Bronx Christian Fellowship Church*

Rev. Que English and her husband, Rev. Tim English, serve as the Senior Pastors of the Bronx Christian Fellowship Church. Rev. Que was named 1 of 25 most influential women in the Bronx for her work in criminal justice reform, gender justice, education reform, sex trafficking and domestic violence. She partnered with the 47th Precinct and leading organizations to help reduce gun violence in her community by almost fifty percent.

Rev. Que is the Chair of the New York City Faith-Based Coalition Against Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence. The coalition has empowered over 200 houses of worship with the tools necessary to combat these atrocities in their communities. She also serves on the steering committee for the newly formed World Without Exploitation.

Rev. Que is the co-founder of the New York City Clergy Roundtable and the Bronx Clergy Roundtable, which is the largest coalition in the Bronx with over 500 partners. In 2016, Rev. Que launched the first pilot of the People's Police Academy in New York City, which is slated for a citywide rollout with the potential for national acceptance. The Academy is a community-led academy to help public safety officers transition into the communities where they serve, but may not live.

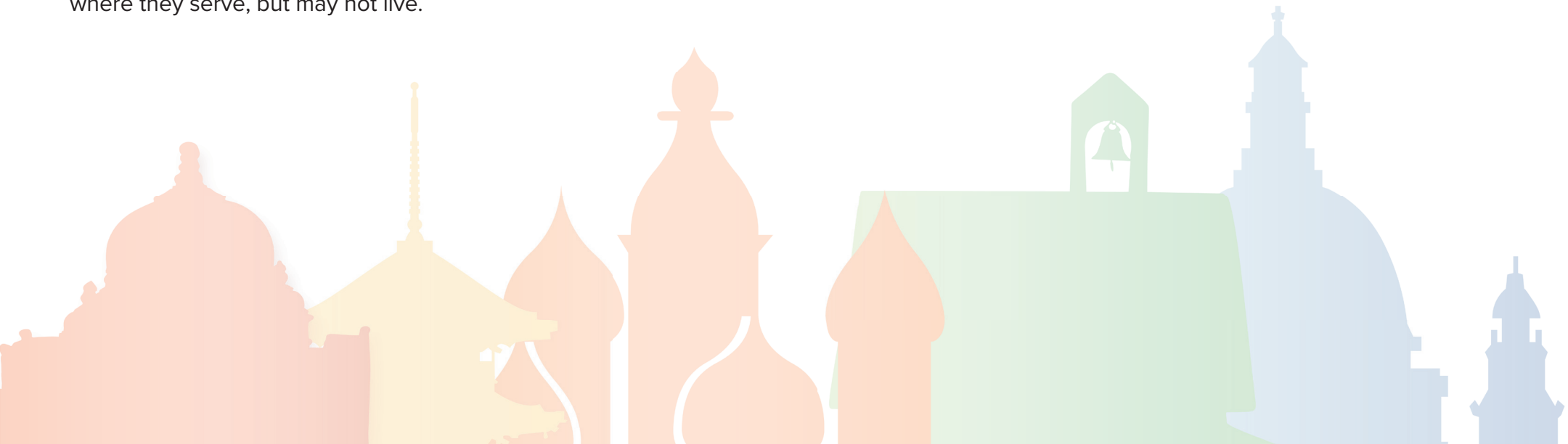
## **Rabbi Robert Kaplan**

*Founding Director of the Center for Community Leadership*

Rabbi Robert “Bob” Kaplan is the founding Director of the Center for Community Leadership the Intergroup, Interfaith and Community Building division of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York. In this role, he acts as a consultant to diverse community-based organizations on issues of intergroup relations, coalition building, leadership development and inter-religious relationships.

Under Mr. Kaplan’s leadership, the Center has been instrumental in developing community-based leadership initiatives such as YouthBridge-NY, We Are All New York, We Are All Brooklyn, We Are the Bronx, One Queens, Community Connections, Northern Manhattan and the Haitian Leadership Fellowships, where they annually train more than 100 diverse leaders in problem solving and community building. The Center has likewise incubated coalitions such as the Queens Coalition on Immigrant Aging and the Center for Bronx Non- Profits at Hostos Community College.

Rabbi Kaplan was a grief counselor for the American Red Cross, where he assisted relief workers at the respite center at Ground Zero. He serves as a Clergy Liaison to the New York City Police Department.



## **Imam Tahir Kukaj**

*Imam, Albanian Islamic Cultural Center*

Imam Tahir Kukaj was educated at Al Az'Har University in Cairo, Egypt, where he received a Ph.D. in Islamic Philosophy. He currently serves as a preacher to the Islamic community and performs various religious services at the Albanian Islamic Cultural Center in Staten Island, NY, where he has presided since 2003. He also serves as an editor of Al-Miraj Magazine.

Imam Tahir Kukaj is also a prominent lecturer and guest speaker, specializing in Islamic Studies. He has presented in England, Norway, Michigan, and New York for the American Humanitarian Organization, Mercy International, Snug Harbor, Wagner College, Staten Island College, Saint John College, and the New York City Police Academy.

Imam Tahir Kukaj served on the Islamic Council of Kosovo in Cairo, Egypt, where he acted as a liaison between Egyptian and Albanian authorities. He also served as a translator to the Foreign Minister of Egypt, and provided assistance on freedom issues and religion.

He authored the following books, *in Albanian/Arabic: Thoughts about Qur'an, The Credibility of Holy Books, The Scientific Miracles of Qur'an, 101 Questions and Answers about Islam, Thirty Truths about Islam, Ibni Arabi and Ibni Taymia (Mysticism and Islamic Philosophy), and Albanian Identity and Religion.*

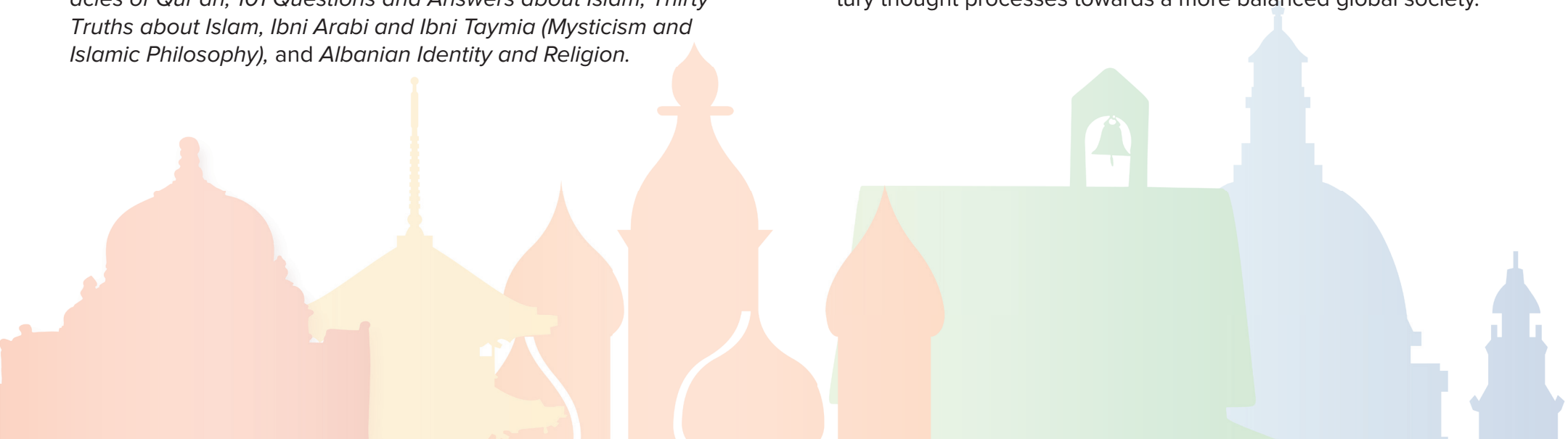
## **Baba Antonio Mondesíre**

*Interfaith Ambassador, Church of Lukumi Babalú Ayé*

Baba Antonio Mondesíre was born in the Bronx from Puerto Rican and Eastern Caribbean parents. He is an Ifá priest, religious counselor, spiritual mentor, author, educator, consultant, and advocate for persons with disabilities. Baba Mondesíre provides services to interfaith/intrafaith communities nationally and internationally. He facilitates empowerment through leadership development, intellectual processing and application of techniques for cultural competency, sustainability and social responsibility. Baba Mondesíre integrates the historic Yoruba tradition of West Africa with his African-Latino foundation (its diasporal expression - the Lukumi of Cuba) and First Nations' indigenous spiritual values of the Americas.

He serves as an Interfaith Ambassador for the Church of Lukumi Babalú Ayé. He studies with highly respected traditional religious leaders, has a post graduate degree and has taught in college.

Baba Mondesíre has served as a Palliative Care Chaplain at Calvary Hospital in the Bronx and currently serves in partnership with NYC Ceasefire. As a board member of the Interfaith Center of New York (ICNY), his vision is to positively influence our 21st century thought processes towards a more balanced global society.



**Thank you for  
attending this event.**



**NYPD**

New York City Police Department

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