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LSI Logic pushes for school's ouster

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■ **Safety fears:** Enforce court ruling or face legal action, the firm tells Santa Clara.

BY MICHAEL CRONK
Mercury News Staff Writer

A high-tech firm impatient with Santa Clara's pace in evicting a Muslim school that the courts have ruled was improperly allowed to settle in an industrial area is pressing the city to oust the 250-student portion of the Muslim Community Association center.

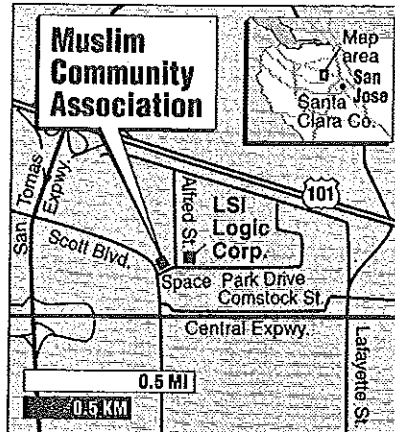
An attorney for LSI Logic Corp. has asked that the council, at its July 2 meeting, either enforce the court ruling that voided the permit for the Granada Islamic School or face further legal action.

The city has allowed the school to remain through July 23, but

members of the Muslim Community Association say they hope to win an extension, and the city is working on a study that could enable the facility to remain.

LSI, a semiconductor manufacturer, has for almost three years challenged the city's action allowing the Muslim Community Association to locate a school in part of an 80,000-square-foot former Hewlett-Packard Co. sales office at 3003 Scott Blvd., across the street from the company's Santa Clara manufacturing and research and development facility.

Company officials charged the city approved the school without adequately studying the risks to children and saddled the firm



CARL NEIBURGER — MERCURY NEWS

with potential permit and liability problems.

"Every day, children are within 300 feet of toxic, corrosive and flammable materials. Despite our stringent safety procedures this

makes us very nervous," said Kevin Brett, an LSI spokesman.

But Muslim leaders maintain they have taken steps to ensure the children's safety and that other schools and churches had been located in industrial areas throughout the county without problems.

"We feel LSI is trying to bully the city council and the Muslim community out of that building. It's the single entity opposing our being there," said Abdul Rahman Barakji, a board member of the Muslim Community Association. "We've had overwhelming support from the city council and the community."

The Muslim Community Association center — the largest Islamic center in the Bay Area, serving around 850 families — also in-

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LSI Logic pushes Santa Clara to oust school for Muslims

■ **MUSLIM**
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cludes a mosque and a social services center for Bosnian refugees. The elementary school is closed for the summer and scheduled to reopen Aug. 28. Summer classes for adults and children are scheduled to begin July 1, said Barakji.

The courts ruled in January that the city needed to do an environmental impact report and ordered the city to revoke the conditional use permit for the school.

The decision triggered protests from Muslim officials, who said closing the school in midyear was unjust and would harm students and disrupt activities during the holy month of Ramadan.

The city council voted unanimously to revoke the use permit but delayed enforcement until

late July so that students could finish the school year, Ramadan could be celebrated, and the city could complete an environmental impact report that would have to be done before a new permit could be considered.

The environmental impact report process is taking longer than anticipated and isn't likely to be completed before the start of the new school year. Barakji said the school should be granted an extension while the report is being prepared.

Brett said if the council takes action July 2, school officials will have almost two months to find another location.

"We reluctantly agreed to the delay, but it's rapidly expiring and we don't want to see an extension," he said. "We feel we've been reasonable, and it's time for the city to fully comply with the court order."