

Sayers, Margery

From: Dawn Popp <dpmom23@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 12:24 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CR-117-2021 and CR-118-2021 - Please Vote YES

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Chair Walsh and Council Members,

I was very happy to learn of the pending appointments of Sabina Taj to the HC Library Board of Trustees, and Ainy Haider-Shah to the Compensation Review Commission. Both women are highly qualified, dedicated members of this community, and I am grateful for their willingness to serve - as I am to all of their fellow appointees on the agenda for tomorrow. (I know from personal experience that serving on County Boards and Commissions can be a time-consuming, yet often thankless job!)

I had not planned on submitting testimony regarding these appointments, because I assumed that they would sail through without controversy, as is typically the case for such appointments. However, I have since become aware of an ugly "whisper campaign" on social media, encouraging people to oppose these appointments, so I now feel compelled to speak up in support of these women.

It's important to note that none of the smears against these women have anything to do with their qualifications to serve in the roles to which they have been appointed. Instead, they seem to be rooted in wild anti-development conspiracy theories, with a healthy dose of misogyny and Islamophobia.

I am certain that you are all well aware of the rising toxicity in the political climate in recent years - not only on the national level, but sadly on the local level as well. Local elected officials, candidates, and even private citizens *and their families*, are routinely targeted with personal attacks, "doxing," weaponized MPIA requests, and outright lies about their views and actions. (Again, I speak from personal experience.) This toxic local climate has become so ugly, it has already begun deterring people from running for office or seeking to serve the community in other ways, for fear of being targeted. If these tactics are perceived to be successful, they will only increase. How much harder will it become to find qualified people willing to serve on Boards and Commissions? (As you know, the County Charter was recently amended to shorten the terms of most Boards and Commissions - precisely because it's *already* difficult to find qualified people who are willing and able to serve.)

I urge you to ignore the smear campaign against Ms. Taj and Ms. Haider-Shah, and instead focus only on their experience, dedication to our community, and their qualifications for the roles they have been appointed for. If you do so, I have no doubt that you will unanimously approve both appointments.

Sincerely,
Dawn Popp
Elkridge, D1

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 12:08 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Council Resolutions 117 -2021 and 118-2021

From: Jason Booms <jasonabooms@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 7:27 AM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: Williams, China <ccwilliams@howardcountymd.gov>; csamayoa@howardscountymd.gov
Subject: Council Resolutions 117 -2021 and 118-2021

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Councilperson Jung,

I strongly support the confirmations of Sabina Taj to the Board of Library Trustees and Ainy Haider-Shah to the Compensation Review Commission.

Jason Booms

Council Resolution 117-2021 - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Sabina Taj to the Board of Library Trustees. (No expiration date)

Council Resolution 118-2021 – Introduced by the Chairperson - A RESOLUTION appointing the members of the Compensation Review Commission; providing that the Commission shall recommend the compensation and allowances of the County Council to be elected in November 2022 by Resolution not later than December 21, 2021; providing that the Commission shall make a recommendation concerning compensation and allowances of the County Executive to be elected in November 2022; and providing that the Commission shall terminate on April 30, 2022. (No expiration date).

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 12:07 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: July 28: opposition to appointments of both Ms Taj and Ms Haider

From: Beth Lawson <bethlawson3735@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 8:05 AM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: July 28: opposition to appointments of both Ms Taj and Ms Haider

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

All honorable Howard County Council people:

I urge you to NOT appoint BOTH Sabina Taj and Ainy Haider to both/either Council Resolutions: 117-2021 AND 118-202.

Being appointed to either position is a great honor. There are far better candidates in Howard County than these!

Regards,
Beth Lawson

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 12:07 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Board appointments

-----Original Message-----

From: Kelly Lee <kellyklinefelterlee@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 10:51 AM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Board appointments

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Councilwoman Jung,

I am writing in support of Sabina Taj's appointment to the Library Board of Trustees (CR-117-2021) and in support of Ainy Haider-Shah's appointment to the Compensation Review Board (CR-118-2021).

These two women have dedicated so much of their time and efforts to improve the county to be MORE inclusive and progressive. I have personally worked with these two women on a number of projects that serve our neediest and most vulnerable residents. They work to benefit others, not themselves. Howard County is a better place because of their contributions.

They are now being attacked due to the rise in Islamophobia in this county. It is notable that only these two women, who happen to be of South Asian decent and are Muslim, have been singled out among all the appointees.

The attacks are baseless and deplorable. I ask that you reject this attempt to exclude supremely qualified Muslim women of color from having a seat at the table and vote to approve their appointments.

Respectfully,

Kelly Klinefelter Lee
11810 Snow Patch Way
Columbia

Sayers, Margery

From: Jessica Moreno <jessicalterrazas@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 10:20 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CR-117-2021 and CR-118-2021

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello County Council Members,

I am writing to urge you to please vote in favor of the county resolutions listed in the subject line. I've had the pleasure of knowing Sabina Taj and Ainy Haider-Shah for about 3 years and in my time knowing them I have been overwhelmed by their knowledge and passion. Sabina's passion and drive for education makes her an excellent candidate for the Library Board of Trustees. There is no one I trust more than Ainy Haider-Shah to hold a commission accountable, especially one as important as Compensation Review.

Thank you for your time,

Jessica L. Moreno

Dear Councilman Jones,

July 27, 2021

I am writing to urge you and your fellow council members to support Council Resolution 118-2021 to appoint Ainy Haider to the Compensation Review Commission and to support Council Resolution 117-2021 to confirm the appointment of Sabina Taj to the Board of Library Trustees.

I am deeply disappointed by the attacks on social media against these women who I know to work very hard to better our community. I am appalled and disheartened that some have tried to smear them with meritless accusations. They will both continue to be thoughtful, dedicated, and inclusive in their service and will be an asset on these bodies.

Judith Birnbaum
Elkridge

Sayers, Margery

From: Khaleda Hasan <shahidkhaleda@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 9:25 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Board appointments

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Councilmembers,

I am writing in support of Sabina Taj's appointment to the Library Board of Trustees (CR-117-2021) and in support of Ainy Haider-Shah's appointment to the Compensation Review Board (CR-118-2021).

These two women have dedicated so much of their time and efforts to improve the county to be MORE inclusive and progressive. I am thankful for their continued contributions. Howard County is a better place because of their respective contributions.

They are now being attacked due to the rise in Islamophobia in this county. It is notable that only these two women, who happen to be of South Asian decent and are Muslim, have been singled out among all the appointees.

The attacks are baseless and deplorable. I ask that you reject this attempt to exclude supremely qualified Muslim women of color from having a seat at the table and vote to approve their appointments.

Respectfully,
Dr. Khaleda Hasan
District 3

Sayers, Margery

From: Jennifer Solpietro <jennygrrlrocks@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 9:07 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please confirm Sabina Taj and Ainy Haider-Shah

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good morning,

I am writing to express my support for CR-117-2021 and CR-118-2021, nominating Sabina Taj to the Board of Library Trustees and Ainy Haider-Shah to the Compensation Review Commission. Both of these women have dedicated their lives to public service and governance with a commitment to equity underpinning everything they do.

Please confirm Ms. Taj and Ms. Haider-Shah to these positions.

Thank you,
Jennifer Solpietro

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Katherine Berland <berlandk@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 9:05 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support for Sabina Taj and Ainy Haider-Shah appointments

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Councilmembers,

I am writing today to express my strong support of the appointments of Sabina Taj to the Howard County Library Board of Trustees and Ainy Haider-Shah to the County Compensation Review Commission. These two women have demonstrated a long-standing commitment to public service and upholding the same values that I embrace as a Howard County resident of equality, inclusivity, and opportunity for all. I urge you to confirm their respective appointments.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Katherine Berland
D4

Sayers, Margery

From: Patti Gonzalez <pattigonzalez1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 8:21 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CR-118-2021

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I support Ainy Harder-Shah for the Compensation Review Board PattiGonzalez

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Matthew Molyett <matthew@molyett.com>
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 8:52 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth
Cc: CouncilMail
Subject: Support for appointments

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Council Chair Walsh,

I am writing to you in support of the appointments being decided by:

- * Resolution No. 118 - 2021
- * Resolution No. 117 - 2021

Thank you,

Matthew Molyett
443-598-2441