

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Brad Slater <brad\_slater@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 28, 2021 7:53 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** No to two candidates: Taj and Haider

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

HOCO Council,

I am writing to ask you to vote AGAINST:

117-2021 to appoint Sabina Taj to the Board of Library Trustees, AND

AGAINST 118-2021 to appoint Ainy Haider-Shah to the Compensation Review Commission.

Thank you  
Brad Slater  
Ellicott City

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Maura Dunnigan <maurainmd@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 28, 2021 7:26 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Resolution Vote of Support

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

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I am writing to voice my enthusiastic support for Council Resolution 117 and Council Resolution 118. I cannot think of two more qualified, dedicated, and deserving candidates to fill these roles. Certainly the nominating committees did a vigorous job vetting and understood the strengths and talents that Sabina Taj and Ainy Haider-Shah bring to the table. I have known both women for almost ten years and consider them both to be role models for myself and my children. They are single moms who manage to bring out the best in their families, friends, and community. Sabina and Ainy both work tirelessly for the common good- and always consider the impact on those whose voices are marginalized. They are brilliant, selfless, kind, and thoughtful. They also share another common trait- they are both incredibly strong.

Sadly, their strengths seem to be a target for some in our community who seek to tear these women down. One smear campaign accused Sabina of being Muslim Centric because she suggested being more inclusive at community events. I was involved directly in that episode, as I was friendly with the person trying to get her new organization off the ground and working to coordinate a movie night- sounds amazing and community building right! However she called me upset at the suggestion to show more inclusive movies- perhaps 2/4 being more intentionally representative and asked me to talk to Sabina. I was confused as the whole thing seemed great- a gathering, movies that had better representation than the typical white/western perspective, and now the suggestion of including even more diversity in the programming. So if this was the big beef- I wasn't understanding it then and I don't understand it now.

I will not speculate as to why these women are being targeted by a coordinated campaign to discredit them. I can only say what I have personally witnessed and interacted with since the day I met Sabina- she has consistently been a woman of the highest integrity, puts others before herself, and is gifted in so many arenas- from education policy to anti-bias and racism work.

The Library Board chose Sabina as their nomination of choice- no one would compare to her level of intellect and have the depth and breadth of experience to align with the libraries own mission of becoming effective users of ideas and information. I'm sure you have her resume- it is extensive and only taps the surface of her expertise and life experiences that make her an ideal candidate.

Ainy is brilliant, focused, and also has the background to thrive in any position. I am currently in a program that Ainy had also been a part of called the Justice Leaders Fellowship through ICJS. It asks a year long commitment to research, write, and collaborate with community leaders across the region to look at issues impacting our communities and come together to solve complex problems. Her resume, life experiences, and who she is as a human speak for themselves. Spend any amount of time with Ainy and you cannot help but understand that she is uber-competent in all she does. She understands commitment, delving deep into issues from all sides, and is the epitome of a principled professional. I respect Ainy and Sabina because of their work. I call them friend for who they are. Good people.

We all benefit from the skills, talents, and moral compass of these women. Please recognize that gift and vote to confirm them through the Resolutions today. Our community on the whole will be a much better place for it.

Sincerely,  
Maura Dunnigan

4808 Woodshire Garth  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Marina Vornovitsky <mvornov@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 28, 2021 12:06 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Opposition to Council Resolution 117-2021

[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 to express my concern over the prospective appointment of former Board of Education member Sabina Taj to the Howard County Library System Board of Trustees. Ms. Taj may have an impressive professional paper record to support this appointment, but looking beyond the paper record, her involvement in county affairs as both a public official and as a private citizen has been rife with controversy and concerning displays of unethical leadership and poor judgment.

Here are just a few examples that I can readily provide links to for more information:

1) Firsthand account of divisive leadership by Ms. Taj posted by a person who served with her on a PTA prior to her time as a BOE member: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/HoCoNU/posts/2544052569152118/>

2) In November 2019, Ms. Taj led the HCPSS BOE to violate the Open Meetings Act:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HoCoNU/posts/2676503365907037/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2481593048731404/permalink/2587065884850786/>

3) Ms. Taj was a founding member of "The Rouse Project" --- an organization that brought significant dark money & unprecedented advertising into the 2021 Columbia Association Board of Directors elections --- unpaid volunteer positions. This organization was "outed" by one of the CA election candidates (Richard Bolton) as being a front company for developers (e.g. The Howard Hughes Corporation) interested in influencing the CA elections and placing CA Directors who would facilitate future land use deals & development projects:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HoCoNU/posts/2996809760543061>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HoCoNU/posts/2993993794157991>

Ms. Taj also was involved in the PR wing of "The Rouse Project", which produced a very divisive mailer that denigrated former County Executive Liz Bobo and labeled all critics of "The Rouse Project" as "haters" --- going so far as to produce a "hate list" for the organization: <https://scotteblog.com/.../email-from-the-rouse-project.../>

This is just a small sampling of what Ms. Taj has brought to Howard County politics: controversies, division, violations, unethical political maneuvering, and probable conflicts-of-interest with her strong ties to special interest groups through The Rouse Project. As well-intentioned as her public service and civic engagement may be, these are the consistently concerning and unfortunate results when she is granted a position of power and influence. There are countless other Howard County residents who are able & willing to serve as a member of the HCLS Board of Directors, many of whom could do at least as competent of a job, if not more so, than Ms. Taj, and do so with minimal controversy and consistent respect for their fellow Directors and the community as a whole.

By the evidence above, as well as the many other examples that can be shared by other Howard County residents and public official colleagues who have recently worked with her, it is clear that appointing Ms. Taj to this position will bring significant risk of both future controversies & unneeded drama to HCLS and its leadership as well as obvious risks of conflict of interest when budget decisions related to library land use and development are decided (e.g. budget & policy decisions regarding the fate of the Central Library and The Howard Hughes Corporation's desire to relocate it and build what they deem as affordable housing in its place).

I urge you to vote no to Council Resolution 117-2021 ("A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Sabina Taj to the Board of Library Trustees.") and to discuss with your Council colleagues to reach a majority decision of "no" on this matter.

The Howard County Library System is too precious to entrust to an individual with such an obvious list of recent ethics transgressions, controversies, and probable conflicts of interest. Please entrust this responsibility to another Howard County citizen who will bring respectful, steady leadership to this important position.

Thank you for your consideration of this request,

Sincerely,  
Marina Vornovitsky  
District 4  
6404 Grateful Heart Gate,  
Columbia, MD 21044

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Debbie Bures-Walker <debbiebw@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 11:05 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Opposition to Council Resolution 117-2021

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

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to you about the proposed appointment of Sabina Taj to the Howard County Library System Board of Trustees. I strongly recommend you reject her appointment to this important position.

When Ms. Taj served on the Board of Education (BOE) during contentious redistricting hearings, I watched her often scrolling on her phone while citizens and officials were testifying rather than listening to them. When the BOE members were supposed to give constructive advice on school redistricting, Ms. Taj had no advice to offer and repeatedly asked the redistricting/school planning experts for their opinion. They told her they had already given their opinion and it was now the BOE's responsibility to evaluate the plan, listen to the citizens, and create their own plan. Ms. Taj offered nothing in reply.

In short, when Ms. Taj was supposed to be working for the people (children and adults) of Howard County, Ms. Taj was unable and unwilling to do her job or lacked understanding of what her role was as a School Board elected official.

Our Howard County Library System is highly respected throughout the country, in fact, it is recognized as one of the finest public libraries in America. Appointing a person who is unable or unwilling to serve our community as a BOE member will not do justice for our Library System. Given her indifferent performance on the School Board during redistricting, it is unlikely that she will represent the county well on this board or will be able to advocate for our citizens.

Please vote against the proposed appointment of Sabina Taj to the Howard County Library System Board of Trustees.

Thank you,  
Debbie Bures-Walker

4574 Rolling Meadows  
Ellicott City, MD 21043  
(443) 454-7301

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Lynne Bassler <lynne.bassler@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 10:00 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Vote NO to 117-2021 & 118-2021

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

Members of the Council.

Please vote against 117-2021 to appoint Sabina Taj to the Board of Library Trustees, AND vote against 118-2021 to appoint Ainy Haider-Shah to the Compensation Review Commission neither are positive representatives of ALL the people of Howard County.

Thank you for listening.

Barbara Bassler  
7355 Hallmark Rd  
Clarksville, MD 21029

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Tina Horn <tinahorn\_cae@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 9:26 PM  
**To:** Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David;  
CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Vote YES on Council Resolution 117-2021

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

Dear Councilmembers,

I urge you to vote YES on Council Resolution 117-2021 ("A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Sabina Taj to the Board of Library Trustees.") and to discuss with your Council colleagues to reach a majority decision of "yes" on this matter.

The Howard County Library System is too precious to allow a group of reactionary, anti-education, far-right activists to derail a critical appointment by stoking fear and false outrage using Islamophobia and misogyny against a valued member of our community.

Thank you,

Christine (Tina) Horn  
Wilde Lake



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Sherry Sullivan <sullivansherry@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 9:21 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Opposition to Council Resolution 117-2021

[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 to express my concern over the prospective appointment of former Board of Education member Sabina Taj to the Howard County Library System Board of Trustees. Ms. Taj may have an impressive professional paper record to support this appointment, but looking beyond the paper record, her involvement in county affairs as both a public official and as a private citizen has been rife with controversy and concerning displays of unethical leadership and poor judgment.

Here are just a few examples that I can readily provide links to for more information:

1) Firsthand account of divisive leadership by Ms. Taj posted by a person who served with her on a PTA prior to her time as a BOE member:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fgroups%2FHoCoNU%2Fposts%2F2544052569152118%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cmsayers%40howardcountymd.gov%7C184434eb9bd643b358c208d951660543%7C0538130803664bb7a95b95304bd11a58%7C1%7C0%7C637630320913881640%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sd=0&reserved=0>

2) In November 2019, Ms. Taj led the HCPSS BOE to violate the Open Meetings Act:

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<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fgroups%2F2481593048731404%2Fpermalink%2F2587065884850786%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cmsayers%40howardcountymd.gov%7C184434eb9bd643b358c208d951660543%7C0538130803664bb7a95b95304bd11a58%7C1%7C0%7C637630320913881640%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sd=WdR4BWRJZR0s%2BHQpypFRjLc8dnhlKvnq9i6w71SYwyl%3D&reserved=0>

3) Ms. Taj was a founding member of "The Rouse Project" --- an organization that brought significant dark money & unprecedented advertising into the 2021 Columbia Association Board of Directors elections --- unpaid volunteer positions. This organization was "outed" by one of the CA election candidates (Richard Bolton) as being a front company for developers (e.g. The Howard Hughes Corporation) interested in influencing the CA elections and placing CA Directors who would facilitate future land use deals & development projects:

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<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fgroups%2FHoCoNU%2Fposts%2F2993993794157991&data=04%7C01%7Cmsayers%40howardcountymd.gov%7C184434eb9bd643b358c208d951660543%7C0538130803664bb7a95b95304bd11a58%7C1%7C0%7C637630320913881640%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&data=EljDtIQLEnExy5KVKSOOrMINOGrjPBV%2FflyFRbCGIGxHU%3D&reserved=0>

Ms. Taj also was involved in the PR wing of "The Rouse Project", which produced a very divisive mailer that denigrated former County Executive Liz Bobo and labeled all critics of "The Rouse Project" as "haters" --- going so far as to produce a "hate list" for the organization:

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This is just a small sampling of what Ms. Taj has brought to Howard County politics: controversies, division, violations, unethical political maneuvering, and probable conflicts-of-interest with her strong ties to special interest groups through The Rouse Project. As well-intentioned as her public service and civic engagement may be, these are the consistently concerning and unfortunate results when she is granted a position of power and influence. There are countless other Howard County residents who are able & willing to serve as a member of the HCLS Board of Directors, many of whom could do at least as competent of a job, if not more so, than Ms. Taj, and do so with minimal controversy and consistent respect for their fellow Directors and the community as a whole.

By the evidence above, as well as the many other examples that can be shared by other Howard County residents and public official colleagues who have recently worked with her, it is clear that appointing Ms. Taj to this position will bring significant risk of both future controversies & unneeded drama to HCLS and its leadership as well as obvious risks of conflict of interest when budget decisions related to library land use and development are decided (e.g. budget & policy decisions regarding the fate of the Central Library and The Howard Hughes Corporation's desire to relocate it and build what they deem as affordable housing in its place).

I urge you to vote no to Council Resolution 117-2021 ("A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Sabina Taj to the Board of Library Trustees.") and to discuss with your Council colleagues to reach a majority decision of "no" on this matter.

The Howard County Library System is too precious to entrust to an individual with such an obvious list of recent ethics transgressions, controversies, and probable conflicts of interest. Please entrust this responsibility to another Howard County citizen who will bring respectful, steady leadership to this important position.

Thank you for your consideration of this request,

Sherry Sullivan  
Michael Knowles

2822 Saddlebred CT  
Glenwood, MD



**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Jessica Mahajan <jessica.mahajan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 9:00 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Appointments

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

I support the appointments of Sabina Taj and Ainy Haider-Shah. Both women are valuable members of our community working to make HoCo a better place for all residents, especially those in underserved communities.

Jessica Mahajan  
Columbia resident

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Susan Levine <susangoofy@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 8:35 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Opposition to Council Resolution 117-2021

[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 to express my concern over the prospective appointment of former Board of Education member Sabina Taj to the Howard County Library System Board of Trustees. Ms. Taj may have an impressive professional paper record to support this appointment, but looking beyond the paper record, her involvement in county affairs as both a public official and as a private citizen has been rife with controversy and concerning displays of unethical leadership and poor judgment.

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3) Ms. Taj was a founding member of "The Rouse Project" --- an organization that brought significant dark money & unprecedented advertising into the 2021 Columbia Association Board of Directors elections --- unpaid volunteer positions. This organization was "outed" by one of the CA election candidates (Richard Bolton) as being a front company for developers (e.g. The Howard Hughes Corporation) interested in influencing the CA elections and placing CA Directors who would facilitate future land use deals & development projects:

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Ms. Taj also was involved in the PR wing of "The Rouse Project", which produced a very divisive mailer that denigrated former County Executive Liz Bobo and labeled all critics of "The Rouse Project" as "haters" --- going so far as to produce a "hate list" for the organization: <https://scotteblog.com/.../email-from-the-rouse-project.../>

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Thank you for your consideration of this request,

Susan Levine  
District 4  
6424 Empty Song Rd

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** samirg4314@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 8:03 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Opposition to Council resolution 117-2021

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Dear Councilmembers,

I am writing to express my concern over the prospective appointment of former Board of Education member Sabina Taj to the Howard County Library System Board of Trustees. Ms. Taj may have an impressive professional paper record to support this appointment, but looking beyond the paper record, her involvement in county affairs as both a public official and as a private citizen has been rife with controversy and concerning displays of unethical leadership and poor judgment.

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<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fgroups%2F2481593048731404%2Fpermalink%2F2587065884850786%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cmsayers%40howardcountymd.gov%7C68ce4a5428e4c397a3a08d9515b0523%7C0538130803664bb7a95b95304bd11a58%7C1%7C0%7C637630273654942319%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoImC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikl1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=O2ehj9bs3NDRQ4YFjcdw6dtJAgO%2FabWjOTkJKnwByVE%3D&reserved=0>

3) Ms. Taj was a founding member of "The Rouse Project" --- an organization that brought significant dark money & unprecedented advertising into the 2021 Columbia Association Board of Directors elections --- unpaid volunteer positions. This organization was "outed" by one of the CA election candidates (Richard Bolton) as being a front company for developers (e.g. The Howard Hughes Corporation) interested in influencing the CA elections and placing CA Directors who would facilitate future land use deals & development projects:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fgroups%2FHoCoNU%2Fposts%2F2996809760543061&data=04%7C01%7Cmsayers%40howardcountymd.gov%7Cc68ce4a5428e4c397a3a08d9515b0523%7C0538130803664bb7a95b95304bd11a58%7C1%7C0%7C637630273654942319%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6IklhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=Km8xcqo6qOKAbaEA0JefZ%2FTGrp4D5a9ICl3lcZp%2FWg4%3D&reserved=0>

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fgroups%2FHoCoNU%2Fposts%2F2993993794157991&data=04%7C01%7Cmsayers%40howardcountymd.gov%7Cc68ce4a5428e4c397a3a08d9515b0523%7C0538130803664bb7a95b95304bd11a58%7C1%7C0%7C637630273654942319%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6IklhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=8XIZpRUROk%2Bm4WzkBoZJrKh1yy%2F59fGaVWeL5mQK8FI%3D&reserved=0>

Ms. Taj also was involved in the PR wing of "The Rouse Project", which produced a very divisive mailer that denigrated former County Executive Liz Bobo and labeled all critics of "The Rouse Project" as "haters" --- going so far as to produce a "hate list" for the organization:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fscottteblog.com%2F...%2Femail-from-the-rouse-project...%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cmsayers%40howardcountymd.gov%7Cc68ce4a5428e4c397a3a08d9515b0523%7C0538130803664bb7a95b95304bd11a58%7C1%7C0%7C637630273654942319%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6IklhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=A0s%2B4TqI7Kcf9QiSOjCYPAY0lbfJloayRKpwbXWtAg%3D&reserved=0>

This is just a small sampling of what Ms. Taj has brought to Howard County politics: controversies, division, violations, unethical political maneuvering, and probable conflicts-of-interest with her strong ties to special interest groups through The Rouse Project. As well-intentioned as her public service and civic engagement may be, these are the consistently concerning and unfortunate results when she is granted a position of power and influence. There are countless other Howard County residents who are able & willing to serve as a member of the HCLS Board of Directors, many of whom could do at least as competent of a job, if not more so, than Ms. Taj, and do so with minimal controversy and consistent respect for their fellow Directors and the community as a whole.

By the evidence above, as well as the many other examples that can be shared by other Howard County residents and public official colleagues who have recently worked with her, it is clear that appointing Ms. Taj to this position will bring significant risk of both future controversies & unneeded drama to HCLS and its leadership as well as obvious risks of conflict of interest when budget decisions related to library land use and development are decided (e.g. budget & policy decisions regarding the fate of the Central Library and The Howard Hughes Corporation's desire to relocate it and build what they deem as affordable housing in its place).

I urge you to vote no to Council Resolution 117-2021 ("A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Sabina Taj to the Board of Library Trustees.") and to discuss with your Council colleagues to reach a majority decision of "no" on this matter.

The Howard County Library System is too precious to entrust to an individual with such an obvious list of recent ethics transgressions, controversies, and probable conflicts of interest. Please entrust this responsibility to another Howard County citizen who will bring respectful, steady leadership to this important position.

Thank you for your consideration of this request,

Samir Goradia

4719 Columbia Hills Ct, 21043



## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Ainy Haider-Shah <ainyhaider@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 7:20 PM  
**To:** Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David;  
CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Vote YES on Council Resolution 117-2021

[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 to express my strong support for the appointment of former Board of Education member Sabina Taj to the Howard County Library System Board of Trustees. While Ms. Taj's impressive paper record speaks for itself, she also has a meaningful history of local involvement and advocacy for HCPSS students and other causes important to community members including myself.

I urge you to vote YES on Council Resolution 117-2021 ("A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Sabina Taj to the Board of Library Trustees.") and to discuss with your Council colleagues to reach a majority decision of "yes" on this matter.

The Howard County Library System is too precious to allow a group of reactionary, anti-education, far-right activists to derail a critical appointment by stoking fear and false outrage against a valued member of our community.

Thank you.

Regards,  
Ainy Haider-Shah

Sent from my iPhone

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Lisa Tye Wright <lisyewright@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 7:16 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Oppose 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.]

Hello Council Members,

I am urging you to vote NO to the prospective appointment of Sabina Taj (117-2021) to the Board of Library Trustees, and NO to the prospective appointment of Ainy Haider-Shah (118-2021) to the Compensation Review Commission.

Those appointed to Howard County boards and commissions should be individuals with a high level of integrity and professionalism, be able to unify a community- not divide them, and have a good track record of serving all citizens of the county, not just the ones who agree with them.

Neither of these prospective appointees meet this level of standards. We, the citizens of Howard County, deserve better. Please vote NO to Council Resolutions 117-2021, 118-2021.

Thank you,  
Lisa Wright

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Barb Krupiarz <barbkrap@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 7:00 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Council Resolutions  
**Attachments:** Screenshot\_20210426-164851\_Twitter.jpg; Screenshot\_20210426-171235\_Twitter.jpg; 20210713\_173338.jpg; Screenshot\_20210426-171314\_Twitter.jpg; Screenshot\_20210426-171344\_Twitter.jpg; Screenshot\_20210426-171358\_Twitter.jpg

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

Dear Council members,

I do not typically weigh in on appointments to County boards or commissions. But, I feel the need to write to you in the interest of the reputation of and collaboration among the Howard County community.

1. Council Resolution 117-2021 - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Sabina Taj to the Board of Library Trustees.

I was Dr. Altwerger's representative on the Board of Education's Operating Budget Review Committee (OBRC) with Sabina Taj in 2017/2018. At one meeting at which Ms. Taj was present, a motion was made to recommend that the Board not fund the Jumpstart program that was an alternative to avoid having to redistrict students. The OBRC's decision was based on the cost of transportation to move students to other schools without a funding source for minimal adjustments in capacity (the Board had previously cut other programs due to lack of funding, such as the Elementary School Model and the Teachers for Tomorrow program). The OBRC suggested investigating dual enrollment programs in home schools and redistricting overcapacity schools instead. Ms. Taj argued that the Jumpstart program would be the only way some low income students could go to college, but the OBRC majority voted to recommend it anyway (and the Board ignored it). Ms. Taj then YELLED at the members of this committee who had been investing their time and hard work every Wednesday for an hour and a half each day. She yelled that there was not enough diversity on the the OBRC. (Ms. Taj attended only 60% of those meetings and rarely came to a meeting having done any work.) When she became a Board of Ed member, she then added more membership to the OBRC and the result has been a committee unable to maintain a quorum and was unable to provide a report to the Board of Ed on time due to a lack of consensus.

Ms. Taj also argued with the HCPSS Central Office staff to specifically EXCLUDE any mention of special education in the equity report they drafted as she continually attempted to remove funding for special education and place it in *her* definition of equity. "The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) in the U.S. Department of Education (ED) is a law enforcement agency charged with enforcing federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, and age by recipients of federal financial assistance." All of those criteria should be included when discussing equity in education. Board of Education members should fight for all, especially all marginalized groups. Ms. Taj fought **against** at least one of those groups. That is an advocate, not someone who should represent the community on a Board.

We need people on Boards who will collaborate with others for improvements for all and represent Howard County in a positive manner. In speaking with others in our community, I believe my experiences were not unique. There seems to be a pattern of Ms. Taj implying people are racist if they

simply disagree with her. I am certain Howard County could find another person to appoint to this important Board who is collaborative, professional, and represents community interests and diversity.

2. Resolution No. 118 - 2021 - 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.

Attached to this email is one example of the public vitriol from Ms. Ainy Haider-Shah when she disagrees with an outcome. There are other examples, many of which are directed at individual community members. I will not include the attacks against me from Ms. Haider-Shah, whom I have never met, in the interest of keeping it out of the public record. However, the labels of "white adjacent model minorities" is a racist statement in and of itself. Publicly calling voters liars and assholes because they didn't vote for her preferred candidate is truly disheartening. The arguments related to this appointment are the same as above.

We have become a country of divisiveness and I hope Howard County can rise above that and start to heal as a community, listen to others' perspectives, and have civil debates on issues (not personal attacks when an outcome doesn't go one's way). I strongly believe that both appointments would result in the opposite of collaboration, civility, and professionalism. I fear that these appointments would tarnish the reputation of Howard County and continue the alienating discourse in our community.

Thank you for your service and your attention.

Respectfully,

Barb Krupiarz

 Thread**Ainy Kazmi** @AinyKazmi · 1d

WOW folks must be sO gLaD that the black men running for CA board lost because that means that the ppl behind them lost too!!!1!

Was the “moral superiority” worth it, y’all who criticized the dumbest aspect of the @ProjectRouse? Sorry about the 🇺🇸: I’m livid today.

**Ainy Kazmi** @AinyKazmi · 1d

(In case you don’t know) Once upon a time, there were two amazing candidates —black men—who stepped up to run in Dorsey Search and Kings Contrivance in Columbia. They would have brought a much-needed perspective to our communities.

**Ainy Kazmi** @AinyKazmi · 1d

I met them both and I can tell you they were very good candidates: leaders in their circles. People in their neighborhoods know and respect them. But the white supremacy machine started to whir and fire up excuses about funding to keep them out of the halls of leadership.

Tweet your reply





## Thread

**Ainy Kazmi** @AinyKazmi · 1d

I met them both and I can tell you they were very good candidates: leaders in their circles. People in their neighborhoods know and respect them. But the white supremacy machine started to whirl and fire up excuses about funding to keep them out of the halls of leadership.



1



2

**Ainy Kazmi** @AinyKazmi · 1d

The local liars and assholes started the white supremacy machine but the "nice white people" and the nice white-adjacent 'model minorities' FUELED IT. Unable to look inside at their own shitty biases, they instead listened to the whispers of the white supremacy machine.



1



2

**Ainy Kazmi** @AinyKazmi · 1d

The seductive white supremacy machine whispered "not waiting for their turn," "not qualified," and "beholden to dark money" and the whites and 'model minorities' listened, swayed by the moral superiority. They wanted to FEEL GOOD about themselves.



1



2



Tweet your reply



neighborhoods know and respect them. But the white supremacy machine started to whir and fire up excuses about funding to keep them out of the halls of leadership.



**Ainy Kazmi** @AinyKazmi · 1d

The local liars and assholes started the white supremacy machine but the “nice white people” and the nice white-adjacent ‘model minorities’ FUELED IT. Unable to look inside at their own shitty biases, they instead listened to the whispers of the white supremacy machine.



**Ainy Kazmi** @AinyKazmi · 1d

The seductive white supremacy machine whispered “not waiting for their turn,” “not qualified,” and “benoiden to dark money” and the whites and ‘model minorities’ listened, swayed by the moral superiority.

← Thread



**Ainy Kazmi** @AinyKazmi · 1d  
“They should run for village board first,” the white supremacist machine whispered. “They should show us all their financials,” even if that STILL opens them up to attack.

1 2



**Ainy Kazmi** @AinyKazmi · 1d  
I guess handing that defeat to two VERY qualified black candidates must feel good to those folks today.

1 2



**Ainy Kazmi** @AinyKazmi · 1d  
This just shows that even if you do what you can to help defeat white supremacy THROUGH ENTIRELY LEGAL means, the nice whites and ‘model minorities’ will still listen to the white supremacy machine bc they just want to feel good.

1 1 3



**Ainy Kazmi** @AinyKazmi · 1d  
As we know, justice is hard, and justice can feel uncomfortable.

1 3



**Ainy Kazmi**

Tweet your reply





← Thread



**Ainy Kazmi**  
@AinyKazmi

So kids, the moral of the story is that the liars and the assholes win when white folks and 'model minorities' can't examine their biases and discomfort.

the end

11:05 AM · 25 Apr 21 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

7 Likes



**David Nitkin** @dbnitkin · 1d

Replying to [@AinyKazmi](#)  
Hello [@threadreaderapp](#) please unroll



[Show replies](#)



**Mickey Gomez** @mickeygomez · 20h

Replying to [@AinyKazmi](#)  
This is utterly heartbreaking.



Tweet your reply



← Thread

that the liars and the assholes win when white folks and 'model minorities' can't examine their biases and discomfort.

the end

11:05 AM · 25 Apr 21 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

7 Likes



**David Nitkin** @dbnitkin · 1d

Replying to [@AinyKazmi](#)

Hello [@threadreaderapp](#) please unroll



[Show replies](#)



**Mickey Gomez** @mickeygomez · 20h

Replying to [@AinyKazmi](#)

This is utterly heartbreaking.



**Ainy Kazmi** @AinyKazmi · 18h

Agreed—yesterday I was sad but today I'm angry.



Tweet your reply



## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Sarah Fishkind <sarahefishkind@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 6:29 PM  
**To:** Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David;  
CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Vote YES on Council Resolution 117-2021

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

Dear Council members,

I am writing to express my strong support for the appointment of former Board of Education member Sabina Taj to the Howard County Library System Board of Trustees. While Ms. Taj's impressive paper record speaks for itself, she also has a meaningful history of local involvement and advocacy for HCPSS students and other causes important to community members including myself

I urge you to vote YES on Council Resolution 117-2021 ("A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Sabina Taj to the Board of Library Trustees.") and to discuss with your Council colleagues to reach a majority decision of "yes" on this matter.

The Howard County Library System is too precious to allow a group of reactionary, anti-education, far-right activists to derail a critical appointment by stoking fear and false outrage against a valued member of our community.

Thank you,

Sarah Fishkind  
Towson University Class of 2023  
She/Her/Hers

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Katja Fort Rhoden <katjafort@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 6:21 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Approve 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.]

Dear Howard County Council:

I hope this email finds each of you and yours doing well. I thank you for your work during these unprecedented times in our community.

Please approve the appointments of Sabina Taj and Ainy Haider-Shah.

I am on vacation, during my lazy morning scan of social media I read a few unfortunate, erroneous, and malicious letters about Sabina Taj and Ainy Haider-Shah that were recently sent to the Council. Very ugly attacks on two people that truly care about our community.

For the benefit of our citizens, please do not let these few false and inappropriate letters impact your vote; they are not reflective of the board candidates or public opinion.

Please approve the appointments of Sabina Taj and Ainy Haider-Shah.

Thank you  
Katja

Katja Fort Rhoden  
INOVA Double Lung Transplant Recipient   
Be A Donor  
<https://www.organdonor.gov>

“Just when the caterpillar thought her life was over, she became a butterfly”

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Arsy <arsyshah@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 6:23 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Opposition to Council Resolution 117-2021

[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 deeply worried about and would like to express my concern over the prospective appointment of former Board of Education member Sabina Taj to the Howard County Library System Board of Trustees. As per my understanding as a resident of Howard County since 2014, Ms. Taj's involvement in county affairs as both a public official and as a private citizen has been rife with controversy and concerning displays of unethical leadership and poor judgment. Here are just a few examples that I can readily provide links to for more information:

1) Firsthand account of **divisive leadership by Ms. Taj** posted by a person who served with her on a PTA prior to her time as a BOE member: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/HoCoNU/posts/2544052569152118/>

2) In November 2019, **Ms. Taj led the HCPSS BOE to violate the Open Meetings Act:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HoCoNU/posts/2676503365907037/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2481593048731404/permalink/2587065884850786/>

3) **Ms. Taj was a founding member of "The Rouse Project"** --- an organization that brought significant dark money & unprecedented advertising into the 2021 Columbia Association Board of Directors elections --- unpaid volunteer positions. This organization was "outed" by one of the CA election candidates (Richard Bolton) as being a front company for developers (e.g. The Howard Hughes Corporation) interested in influencing the CA elections and placing CA Directors who would facilitate future land use deals & development projects:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HoCoNU/posts/2996809760543061>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HoCoNU/posts/2993993794157991>

**Ms. Taj also was involved in the PR wing of "The Rouse Project", which produced a very divisive mailer that denigrated former County Executive Liz Bobo** and labeled all critics of "The Rouse Project" as "haters" --- going so far as to produce a "hate list" for the organization: <https://scottblog.com/.../email-from-the-rouse-project.../>

This is just a small sampling of what **Ms. Taj has brought to Howard County politics: controversies, division, violations, unethical political maneuvering, and probable conflicts-of-interest with her strong ties to special interest groups** through The Rouse Project. As well-intentioned as her public service and civic engagement may be, these are the consistently concerning and unfortunate results when she is granted a position of power and influence. There are countless other Howard County residents who are able & willing to serve as a member of the HCLS Board of Directors, many of whom could do at least as competent of a job, if not more so, than Ms. Taj, and do so with minimal controversy and consistent respect for their fellow Directors and the community as a whole.

By the evidence above, as well as the many other examples that can be shared by other Howard County residents and public official colleagues who have recently worked with her, it is clear that appointing Ms. Taj to this position will bring significant risk of both future controversies & unneeded drama to HCLS and its leadership as well as obvious risks of conflict of interest when budget decisions related to library land use and development are decided (e.g. budget & policy decisions regarding the fate of the Central Library and The Howard Hughes Corporation's desire to relocate it and build what they deem as affordable housing in its place).

**I urge you to vote no to Council Resolution 117-2021 ("A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Sabina Taj to the Board of Library Trustees.") and to discuss with your Council colleagues to reach a majority decision of "no" on this matter.**

The Howard County Library System is too precious to entrust to an individual with such an obvious list of recent ethics transgressions, controversies, and probable conflicts of interest. Please entrust this responsibility to another Howard County citizen who will bring respectful, steady leadership to this important position.

Thank you for your consideration of this request,

R. C. Shah CHA  
10131, Washington Blvd.  
Laurel, MD 20723

Ph. # 301-674-8891  
Fax # 240-846-6110

Sent from my iPhone

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Buffy Beaudoin-Schwartz <buffybschwartz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 6:22 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** CR-117, CR-118

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

Good Evening,

I am emailing to encourage the Council to vote YES on CR-117: the appointment of Sabina Taj to the Library Board of Trustees, and CR-118: the appointment of the 7-member Compensation Review Commission including Ainy Haider-Shah.

I have known and worked with Sabina for almost 20 years in a variety of settings and know her to be a caring, kind, thoughtful, smart and committed member of our community, who has spent countless hours working to make Howard County better. And, I've volunteered with Ainy and have watched her devote countless hours assisting others and supporting causes she believes in.

Both Sabina and Ainy are wonderful examples of strong, professional women and committed public servants. We are fortunate to have such dedicated, accomplished women willing to serve our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Buffy Beaudoin-Schwartz

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President, BBS Consulting  
Nonprofits | Foundations | Political Campaigns  
[www.buffybschwartz.com](http://www.buffybschwartz.com)  
[bbsconsulting@buffybschwartz.com](mailto:bbsconsulting@buffybschwartz.com)  
[buffybschwartz@gmail.com](mailto:buffybschwartz@gmail.com)  
443-621-4501

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Bhargav Desai <bhargav.desai@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 6:09 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Appointment of Ms. Taj on Library System Board

[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 deeply worried about and would like to express my concern over the prospective appointment of former Board of Education member Sabina Taj to the Howard County Library System Board of Trustees. As per my understanding as a resident of Howard County since 1997, Ms. Taj's involvement in county affairs as both a public official and as a private citizen has been rife with controversy and concerning displays of unethical leadership and poor judgment. Here are just a few examples that I can readily provide links to for more information:

1) Firsthand account of **divisive leadership by Ms. Taj** posted by a person who served with her on a PTA prior to her time as a BOE member: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/HoCoNU/posts/2544052569152118/>

2) In November 2019, **Ms. Taj led the HCPSS BOE to violate the Open Meetings Act:**

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2481593048731404/permalink/2587065884850786/>

3) **Ms. Taj was a founding member of "The Rouse Project"** --- an organization that brought significant dark money & unprecedented advertising into the 2021 Columbia Association Board of Directors elections --- unpaid volunteer positions. This organization was "outed" by one of the CA election candidates (Richard Bolton) as being a front company for developers (e.g. The Howard Hughes Corporation) interested in influencing the CA elections and placing CA Directors who would facilitate future land use deals & development projects:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HoCoNU/posts/2996809760543061>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HoCoNU/posts/2993993794157991>

**Ms. Taj also was involved in the PR wing of "The Rouse Project", which produced a very divisive mailer that denigrated former County Executive Liz Bobo** and labeled all critics of "The Rouse Project" as "haters" --- going so far as to produce a "hate list" for the organization: <https://scotteblog.com/.../email-from-the-rouse-project.../>

This is just a small sampling of what **Ms. Taj has brought to Howard County politics: controversies, division, violations, unethical political maneuvering, and probable conflicts-of-interest with her strong ties to special interest groups** through The Rouse Project. As well-intentioned as her public service and civic engagement may be, these are the consistently concerning and unfortunate results when she is granted a position of power and influence. There are countless other Howard County residents who are able & willing to serve as a member of the HCLS Board of Directors, many of whom could do at least as competent of a job, if not more so, than Ms. Taj, and do so with minimal controversy and consistent respect for their fellow Directors and the community as a whole.

By the evidence above, as well as the many other examples that can be shared by other Howard County residents and public official colleagues who have recently worked with her, it is clear that appointing Ms. Taj to this position will bring significant risk of both future controversies & unneeded drama to HCLS and its leadership as well as obvious risks of conflict of interest when budget decisions related to library land use and development are decided (e.g. budget & policy decisions regarding the fate of the Central Library and The Howard Hughes Corporation's desire to relocate it and build what they deem as affordable housing in its place).

**I urge you to vote no to Council Resolution 117-2021 ("A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Sabina Taj to the Board of Library Trustees.") and to discuss with your Council colleagues to reach a majority decision of "no" on this matter.**

The Howard County Library System is too precious to entrust to an individual with such an obvious list of recent ethics transgressions, controversies, and probable conflicts of interest. Please entrust this responsibility to another Howard County citizen who will bring respectful, steady leadership to this important position.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely  
Bhargav Desai



## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** pradeep prakash <email4prakash@googlemail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 6:03 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Opposition to Council Resolution 117-2021

[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 to express my concern over the prospective appointment of former Board of Education member Sabina Taj to the Howard County Library System Board of Trustees. Ms. Taj may have an impressive professional paper record to support this appointment, but looking beyond the paper record, her involvement in county affairs as both a public official and as a private citizen has been rife with controversy and concerning displays of unethical leadership and poor judgment.

Here are just a few examples that I can readily provide links to for more information:

1) Firsthand account of divisive leadership by Ms. Taj posted by a person who served with her on a PTA prior to her time as a BOE member: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/HoCoNU/posts/2544052569152118/>

2) In November 2019, Ms. Taj led the HCPSS BOE to violate the Open Meetings Act:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HoCoNU/posts/2676503365907037/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2481593048731404/permalink/2587065884850786/>

3) Ms. Taj was a founding member of "The Rouse Project" --- an organization that brought significant dark money & unprecedented advertising into the 2021 Columbia Association Board of Directors elections --- unpaid volunteer positions. This organization was "outed" by one of the CA election candidates (Richard Bolton) as being a front company for developers (e.g. The Howard Hughes Corporation) interested in influencing the CA elections and placing CA Directors who would facilitate future land use deals & development projects:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HoCoNU/posts/2996809760543061>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HoCoNU/posts/2993993794157991>

Ms. Taj also was involved in the PR wing of "The Rouse Project", which produced a very divisive mailer that denigrated former County Executive Liz Bobo and labeled all critics of "The Rouse Project" as "haters" --- going so far as to produce a "hate list" for the organization: <https://scotteblog.com/.../email-from-the-rouse-project.../>

This is just a small sampling of what Ms. Taj has brought to Howard County politics: controversies, division, violations, unethical political maneuvering, and probable conflicts-of-interest with her strong ties to special interest groups through The Rouse Project. As well-intentioned as her public service and civic engagement may be, these are the consistently concerning and unfortunate results when she is granted a position of power and influence. There are countless other Howard County residents who are able & willing to serve as a member of the HCLS Board of Directors, many of whom could do at least as competent of a job, if not more so, than Ms. Taj, and do so with minimal controversy and consistent respect for their fellow Directors and the community as a whole.

By the evidence above, as well as the many other examples that can be shared by other Howard County residents and public official colleagues who have recently worked with her, it is clear that appointing Ms. Taj to this position will bring significant risk of both future controversies & unneeded drama to HCLS and its leadership as well as obvious risks of conflict of interest when budget decisions related to library land use and development are decided (e.g. budget & policy decisions regarding the fate of the Central Library and The Howard Hughes Corporation's desire to relocate it and build what they deem as affordable housing in its place).

I urge you to vote no to Council Resolution 117-2021 ("A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Sabina Taj to the Board of Library Trustees.") and to discuss with your Council colleagues to reach a majority decision of "no" on this matter.

The Howard County Library System is too precious to entrust to an individual with such an obvious list of recent ethics transgressions, controversies, and probable conflicts of interest. Please entrust this responsibility to another Howard County citizen who will bring respectful, steady leadership to this important position.

Thank you for your consideration of this request,

[PRADEEP Prakash

[Howard county / 10104 Frederick Rd Ellicott city]

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Dinesh Mettu <mettudinesh@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 5:55 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Opposition to Council Resolution 117-2021

[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 deeply worried about and would like to express my concern over the prospective appointment of former Board of Education member Sabina Taj to the Howard County Library System Board of Trustees. As per my understanding as a resident of Howard County since 2014, Ms. Taj's involvement in county affairs as both a public official and as a private citizen has been rife with controversy and concerning displays of unethical leadership and poor judgment. Here are just a few examples that I can readily provide links to for more information:

1) Firsthand account of **divisive leadership by Ms. Taj** posted by a person who served with her on a PTA prior to her time as a BOE member: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/HoCoNU/posts/2544052569152118/>

2) In November 2019, **Ms. Taj led the HCPSS BOE to violate the Open Meetings Act:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HoCoNU/posts/2676503365907037/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2481593048731404/permalink/2587065884850786/>

3) **Ms. Taj was a founding member of "The Rouse Project"** --- an organization that brought significant dark money & unprecedented advertising into the 2021 Columbia Association Board of Directors elections --- unpaid volunteer positions. This organization was "outed" by one of the CA election candidates (Richard Bolton) as being a front company for developers (e.g. The Howard Hughes Corporation) interested in influencing the CA elections and placing CA Directors who would facilitate future land use deals & development projects:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HoCoNU/posts/2996809760543061>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HoCoNU/posts/2993993794157991>

**Ms. Taj also was involved in the PR wing of "The Rouse Project", which produced a very divisive mailer that denigrated former County Executive Liz Bobo** and labeled all critics of "The Rouse Project" as "haters" --- going so far as to produce a "hate list" for the organization: <https://scottblog.com/.../email-from-the-rouse-project.../>

This is just a small sampling of what **Ms. Taj has brought to Howard County politics: controversies, division, violations, unethical political maneuvering, and probable conflicts-of-interest with her strong ties to special interest groups** through The Rouse Project. As well-intentioned as her public service and civic engagement may be, these are the consistently concerning and unfortunate results when she is granted a position of power and influence. There are countless other Howard County residents who are able & willing to serve as a member of the HCLS Board of Directors, many of whom could do at least as competent of a job, if not more so, than Ms. Taj, and do so with minimal controversy and consistent respect for their fellow Directors and the community as a whole.

By the evidence above, as well as the many other examples that can be shared by other Howard County residents and public official colleagues who have recently worked with her, it is clear that appointing Ms. Taj to this position will bring significant risk of both future controversies & unneeded drama to HCLS and its leadership as well as obvious risks of conflict of interest when budget decisions related to library land use and development are decided (e.g. budget & policy decisions regarding the fate of the Central Library and The Howard Hughes Corporation's desire to relocate it and build what they deem as affordable housing in its place).

**I urge you to vote no to Council Resolution 117-2021 ("A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Sabina Taj to the Board of Library Trustees.") and to discuss with your Council colleagues to reach a majority decision of "no" on this matter.**

The Howard County Library System is too precious to entrust to an individual with such an obvious list of recent ethics transgressions, controversies, and probable conflicts of interest. Please entrust this responsibility to another Howard County citizen who will bring respectful, steady leadership to this important position.

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Anjula Batra <anjulab4@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 5:53 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Please vote yes on CR117 and 118

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

I am writing to urge the Council to vote YES on CR-117 (Appointment of Ms. Taj to the Library Board of Trustees) and CR-118 (Appointment of 7-member Compensation Review Commission including Ms. Haider-Shah.)

We are so lucky to have such dedicated, accomplished women willing to serve our community. I am writing as a citizen of Howard County and as an Indian American who fully supports these appointments. I find the recent vilification of Ms. Taj on social media appalling, and I have watched her work tirelessly on issues of equity and inclusion in the community for years.

Thanks so much.

Anjula Batra

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Anjula Batra  
[anjulab4@gmail.com](mailto:anjulab4@gmail.com)

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Brian Edwards <brianledwards@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 5:48 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Opposition to 117-2021

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

Please vote no to the appointment of Sabina Taj. From her time on the PTA complaining that there were too many white \*volunteers\* and there must be racism, to her comments made as a BOE member that true school feeder systems are not possible because of Howard County's history of segregation, to her comment at the PATH meeting in 9/2019 stating that "we must unravel the white supremacy in Howard County", she clearly has an agenda that is not in the best interest of this county. She has proven time and time again to be a very divisive individual on whatever platform she has served. I do have 100% confidence Sabina will do what is in the best interests of developers not what is best for this county. If you believe that she will vote the way you would yourself, I encourage you to find someone else to serve who is less divisive. I strongly encourage a no vote tomorrow for all council members.

Thank you!

Brian Edwards

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Krista Story Newgent <kristastorynewgent@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 5:41 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Opposition to Council Resolution 117-2021

[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 to express my concern over the prospective appointment of former Board of Education member Sabina Taj to the Howard County Library System Board of Trustees. Ms. Taj may have an impressive professional paper record to support this appointment, but looking beyond the paper record, her involvement in county affairs as both a public official and as a private citizen has been rife with controversy and concerning displays of unethical leadership and poor judgment. I have first hand experience with working with Ms. Taj through my local PTA and can attest to the divisiveness she brought to our community during her short time as a volunteer at our school.

1) This is my own account of her time on the CLES PTA. <https://www.facebook.com/.../HoCoNU/posts/2544052569152118/>

Here are several other examples of her unprofessional behavior:

2) In November 2019, Ms. Taj led the HCPSS BOE to violate the Open Meetings Act:

<https://www.facebook.com/.../HoCoNU/posts/2676503365907037/>

<https://www.facebook.com/.../permalink/2587065884850786/>

3) Ms. Taj was a founding member of "The Rouse Project" --- an organization that brought significant dark money & unprecedented advertising into the 2021 Columbia Association Board of Directors elections --- unpaid volunteer positions. This organization was "outed" by one of the CA election candidates (Richard Bolton) as being a front company for developers (e.g. The Howard Hughes Corporation) interested in influencing the CA elections and placing CA Directors who would facilitate future land use deals & development projects:

<https://www.facebook.com/.../HoCoNU/posts/2996809760543061>

<https://www.facebook.com/.../HoCoNU/posts/2993993794157991>

Ms. Taj also was involved in the PR wing of "The Rouse Project", which produced a very divisive mailer that denigrated former County Executive Liz Bobo and labeled all critics of "The Rouse Project" as "haters" --- going so far as to produce a "hate list" for the organization: <https://scotteblog.com/.../email-from-the-rouse-project.../>

This is just a small sampling of what Ms. Taj has brought to Howard County politics: controversies, division, violations, unethical political maneuvering, and probable conflicts-of-interest with her strong ties to special interest groups through The Rouse Project. As well-intentioned as her public service and civic engagement may be, these are the consistently concerning and unfortunate results when she is granted a position of power and influence. There are countless other Howard County residents who are able & willing to serve as a member of the HCLS Board of Directors, many of whom could do at least as competent of a job, if not more so, than Ms. Taj, and do so with minimal controversy and consistent respect for their fellow Directors and the community as a whole.

By the evidence above, as well as the many other examples that can be shared by other Howard County residents and public official colleagues who have recently worked with her, it is clear that appointing Ms. Taj to this position will bring significant risk of both future controversies & unneeded drama to HCLS and its leadership as well as obvious risks of conflict of interest when budget decisions related to library land use and development are decided (e.g. budget & policy decisions regarding the fate of the Central Library and The Howard Hughes Corporation's desire to relocate it and build what they deem as affordable housing in its place).

I urge you to vote no to Council Resolution 117-2021 ("A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Sabina Taj to the Board of Library Trustees.") and to discuss with your Council colleagues to reach a majority decision of "no" on this matter.

The Howard County Library System is too precious to entrust to an individual with such an obvious list of recent ethics transgressions, controversies, and probable conflicts of interest. Please entrust this responsibility to another Howard County citizen who will bring respectful, steady leadership to this important position.

Thank you for your consideration of this request,

Krista Story Newgent

District 1

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Pallavi Raol <raolpallavi@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 5:26 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Vote "NO" to Council Resolution 117-2021

[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 deeply worried about and would like to express my concern over the prospective appointment of former Board of Education member Sabina Taj to the Howard County Library System Board of Trustees. As per my understanding as a resident of howard county since 2014, Ms. Taj's involvement in county affairs as both a public official and as a private citizen has been rife with controversy and concerning displays of unethical leadership and poor judgment. Here are just a few examples that I can readily provide links to for more information:

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HoCoNU/posts/2676503365907037/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2481593048731404/permalink/2587065884850786/>

3) **Ms. Taj was a founding member of "The Rouse Project"** --- an organization that brought significant dark money & unprecedented advertising into the 2021 Columbia Association Board of Directors elections --- unpaid volunteer positions. This organization was "outed" by one of the CA election candidates (Richard Bolton) as being a front company for developers (e.g. The Howard Hughes Corporation) interested in influencing the CA elections and placing CA Directors who would facilitate future land use deals & development projects:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HoCoNU/posts/2996809760543061>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HoCoNU/posts/2993993794157991>

**Ms. Taj also was involved in the PR wing of "The Rouse Project", which produced a very divisive mailer that denigrated former County Executive Liz Bobo** and labeled all critics of "The Rouse Project" as "haters" --- going so far as to produce a "hate list" for the organization: <https://scotteblog.com/.../email-from-the-rouse-project.../>

This is just a small sampling of what **Ms. Taj has brought to Howard County politics: controversies, division, violations, unethical political maneuvering, and probable conflicts-of-interest with her strong ties to special interest groups** through The Rouse Project. As well-intentioned as her public service and civic engagement may be, these are the consistently concerning and unfortunate results when she is granted a position of power and influence. There are countless other Howard County residents who are able & willing to serve as a member of the HCLS Board of Directors, many of whom could do at least as competent of a job, if not more so, than Ms. Taj, and do so with minimal controversy and consistent respect for their fellow Directors and the community as a whole.

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**I urge you to vote no to Council Resolution 117-2021 ("A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Sabina Taj to the Board of Library Trustees.") and to discuss with your Council colleagues to reach a majority decision of "no" on this matter.**



The Howard County Library System is too precious to entrust to an individual with such an obvious list of recent ethics transgressions, controversies, and probable conflicts of interest. Please entrust this responsibility to another Howard County citizen who will bring respectful, steady leadership to this important position.

Thank you for your consideration of this request,

**Thank you!**

**Pallavi Raol**

3264 pine Orchard Ln

Ellicott City 21042

***"Each soul is potentially divine. The goal is to manifest that divinity within"***  
***- Swami Vivekananda***

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Raol <email2raol@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 5:24 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Vote "NO" to Council Resolution 117-2021

[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 deeply worried about and would like to express my concern over the prospective appointment of former Board of Education member Sabina Taj to the Howard County Library System Board of Trustees. As per my understanding as a resident of Howard County since 2014, Ms. Taj's involvement in county affairs as both a public official and as a private citizen has been rife with controversy and concerning displays of unethical leadership and poor judgment. Here are just a few examples that I can readily provide links to for more information:

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2481593048731404/permalink/2587065884850786/>

3) **Ms. Taj was a founding member of "The Rouse Project"** --- an organization that brought significant dark money & unprecedented advertising into the 2021 Columbia Association Board of Directors elections --- unpaid volunteer positions. This organization was "outed" by one of the CA election candidates (Richard Bolton) as being a front company for developers (e.g. The Howard Hughes Corporation) interested in influencing the CA elections and placing CA Directors who would facilitate future land use deals & development projects:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HoCoNU/posts/2996809760543061>

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**Ms. Taj also was involved in the PR wing of "The Rouse Project", which produced a very divisive mailer that denigrated former County Executive Liz Bobo** and labeled all critics of "The Rouse Project" as "haters" --- going so far as to produce a "hate list" for the organization: <https://scottblog.com/.../email-from-the-rouse-project.../>

This is just a small sampling of what **Ms. Taj has brought to Howard County politics: controversies, division, violations, unethical political maneuvering, and probable conflicts-of-interest with her strong ties to special interest groups** through The Rouse Project. As well-intentioned as her public service and civic engagement may be, these are the consistently concerning and unfortunate results when she is granted a position of power and influence. There are countless other Howard County residents who are able & willing to serve as a member of the HCLS Board of Directors, many of whom could do at least as competent of a job, if not more so, than Ms. Taj, and do so with minimal controversy and consistent respect for their fellow Directors and the community as a whole.

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The Howard County Library System is too precious to entrust to an individual with such an obvious list of recent ethics transgressions, controversies, and probable conflicts of interest. Please entrust this responsibility to another Howard County citizen who will bring respectful, steady leadership to this important position.

Thank you for your consideration of this request,  
Ketul Raol  
3264 Pine Orchard Ln  
Ellicott City 21042

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Shrigauri Shastri <shrigauri.shastri@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 5:19 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Opposition to Council Resolution 117-2021

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

Dear Council-members,

I am deeply worried about and would like to express my concern over the prospective appointment of former Board of Education member Sabina Taj to the Howard County Library System Board of Trustees. As per my understanding as a resident of Howard County since 2014, Ms. Taj's involvement in county affairs as both a public official and as a private citizen has been rife with controversy and concerning displays of unethical leadership and poor judgment. Here are just a few examples that I can readily provide links to for more information:

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HoCoNU/posts/2676503365907037/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2481593048731404/permalink/2587065884850786/>

3) **Ms. Taj was a founding member of "The Rouse Project"** --- an organization that brought significant dark money & unprecedented advertising into the 2021 Columbia Association Board of Directors elections --- unpaid volunteer positions. This organization was "outed" by one of the CA election candidates (Richard Bolton) as being a front company for developers (e.g. The Howard Hughes Corporation) interested in influencing the CA elections and placing CA Directors who would facilitate future land use deals & development projects:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HoCoNU/posts/2996809760543061>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HoCoNU/posts/2993993794157991>

**Ms. Taj also was involved in the PR wing of "The Rouse Project", which produced a very divisive mailer that**

**denigrated former County Executive Liz Bobo** and labeled all critics of "The Rouse Project" as "haters" --- going so far as to produce a "hate list" for the organization: <https://scotteblog.com/.../email-from-the-rouse-project.../>

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**I urge you to vote no to Council Resolution 117-2021 ("A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Sabina Taj to the Board of Library Trustees.") and to discuss with your Council colleagues to reach a majority decision of "no" on this matter.**

The Howard County Library System is too precious to entrust to an individual with such an obvious list of recent ethics transgressions, controversies, and probable conflicts of interest. Please entrust this responsibility to another Howard County citizen who will bring respectful, steady leadership to this important position.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Shrigauri Sudhir

8075 Locust Mill St

Ellicott City 21043

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Murali Divi <mkdivi@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 4:43 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Vote "NO" to Council Resolution 117-2021

[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 deeply worried about and would like to express my concern over the prospective appointment of former Board of Education member Sabina Taj to the Howard County Library System Board of Trustees. As per my understanding as a resident of Howard County since 2014, Ms. Taj's involvement in county affairs as both a public official and as a private citizen has been rife with controversy and concerning displays of unethical leadership and poor judgment. Here are just a few examples that I can readily provide links to for more information:

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HoCoNU/posts/2676503365907037/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2481593048731404/permalink/2587065884850786/>

3) **Ms. Taj was a founding member of "The Rouse Project"** --- an organization that brought significant dark money & unprecedented advertising into the 2021 Columbia Association Board of Directors elections --- unpaid volunteer positions. This organization was "outed" by one of the CA election candidates (Richard Bolton) as being a front company for developers (e.g. The Howard Hughes Corporation) interested in influencing the CA elections and placing CA Directors who would facilitate future land use deals & development projects:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HoCoNU/posts/2996809760543061>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HoCoNU/posts/2993993794157991>

**Ms. Taj also was involved in the PR wing of "The Rouse Project", which produced a very divisive mailer that denigrated former County Executive Liz Bobo** and labeled all critics of "The Rouse Project" as "haters" --- going so far as to produce a "hate list" for the organization: <https://scottblog.com/.../email-from-the-rouse-project.../>

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**I urge you to vote no to Council Resolution 117-2021 ("A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Sabina Taj to the Board of Library Trustees.") and to discuss with your Council colleagues to reach a majority decision of "no" on this matter.**

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Thank you for your consideration of this request,  
Murali Divi  
7044 Lennox ave,  
Elkridge, MD  
21075

-  
Murali Krishna Divi

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Tim & Deb Lattimer <lattimertp@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 4:21 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support for appointments of Sabina Taj & Ainy Haider-Shah

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

Dear Council Members:

We believe Sabina Taj and Ainy Haider-Shah are dedicated to serving the public with integrity, intelligence, and compassion. Knowing them to be strong proponents for building community, we are dismayed at the attacks directed at them by those who appear to begrudge Sabina's & Any's strong advocacy for equity and inclusion. Howard County must show zero tolerance for hate. We hope the Council refuses to be intimidated by the loud voices of HoCo's haters and we respectfully urge that you approve CR 117-2021 to appoint Ms. Taj to the Board of Library Trustees and CR 118-2021 to appoint Ms. Haider-Shah to the Compensation Review Commission.

Thanks very much and best regards, Tim and Debi Lattimer

Residents of Council District 2  
Long Reach Village, Columbia, MD



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jennifer Gambrill <jenniferg70@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 3:39 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Vote NO to Council Resolution 117-2021 ("A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Sabina Taj to the Board of Library Trustees")

[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 to express my concern over the prospective appointment of former Board of Education member Sabina Taj to the Howard County Library System Board of Trustees. Ms. Taj may have an impressive professional paper record to support this appointment, but looking beyond the paper record, her involvement in county affairs as both a public official and as a private citizen has been rife with controversy and concerning displays of unethical leadership and poor judgment.

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member: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/HoCoNU/posts/2544052569152118/>

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2481593048731404/permalink/2587065884850786/>

3) Ms. Taj was a founding member of "The Rouse Project" --- an organization that brought significant dark money & unprecedented advertising into the 2021 Columbia Association Board of Directors elections --- unpaid volunteer positions. This organization was "outed" by one of the CA election candidates (Richard Bolton) as being a front company for developers (e.g. The Howard Hughes Corporation) interested in influencing the CA elections and placing CA Directors who would facilitate future land use deals & development projects:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HoCoNU/posts/2996809760543061>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HoCoNU/posts/2993993794157991>

Ms. Taj also was involved in the PR wing of "The Rouse Project", which produced a very divisive mailer that denigrated former County Executive Liz Bobo and labeled all critics of "The Rouse Project" as "haters" --- going so far as to produce a "hate list" for the organization: <https://scotteblog.com/.../email-from-the-rouse-project.../>

This is just a small sampling of what Ms. Taj has brought to Howard County politics: controversies, division, violations, unethical political maneuvering, and probable conflicts-of-interest with her strong ties to special interest groups through The Rouse Project. As well-intentioned as her public service and civic engagement may be, these are the consistently concerning and unfortunate results when she is granted a position of power and influence. There are countless other Howard County residents who are able & willing to serve as a member of the HCLS Board of Directors, many of whom could do at least as competent of a job, if not more so, than Ms. Taj, and do so with minimal controversy and consistent respect for their fellow Directors and the community as a whole.

By the evidence above, as well as the many other examples that can be shared by other Howard County residents and public official colleagues who have recently worked with her, it is clear that appointing Ms. Taj to this position will bring significant risk of both future controversies & unneeded drama to HCLS and its

leadership as well as obvious risks of conflict of interest when budget decisions related to library land use and development are decided (e.g. budget & policy decisions regarding the fate of the Central Library and The Howard Hughes Corporation's desire to relocate it and build what they deem as affordable housing in its place).

I urge you to vote no to Council Resolution 117-2021 ("A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Sabina Taj to the Board of Library Trustees.") and to discuss with your Council colleagues to reach a majority decision of "no" on this matter.

The Howard County Library System is too precious to entrust to an individual with such an obvious list of recent ethics transgressions, controversies, and probable conflicts of interest. Please entrust this responsibility to another Howard County citizen who will bring respectful, steady leadership to this important position.

Thank you for your consideration of this request,  
Jennifer Gambrill  
District 2/Columbia, Md