

CR 118

~~CR 117~~

Sayers, Margery

From: Barb Krupiarz <barbkrup@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

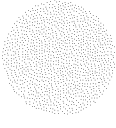
Thread

 **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.

2 3 13

 **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.

1 2

 **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.

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 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 “beholden to dark money” and the whites and ‘model minorities’ listened, swayed by the moral superiority. They wanted to FEEL GOOD about themselves.



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.



1



2



Ainy Kazmi @AinyKazmi · 1d

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1



2



Ainy Kazmi @AinyKazmi · 1d


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← 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: elizabeth moss <eliz.moss@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2021 5:31 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Yes on CR-117 and CR-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 strongly support a YES vote on the appointment of Sabina Taj and Ainy Haider-Shah to their respective board/commission. Both women have dedicated countless hours to this County and provide an important perspective that will benefit this County. These women are being vilified by some because they asked complicated and difficult questions that will advance this County. Sabina and Ainy have also called individuals out on hypocritical behavior, or when individuals are acting in their self-interest. These same individuals are now leading the campaign to smear them purely as retribution. Sabina and Ainy are intelligent, hard working, dedicated individuals that are only looking to serve this County for the benefit of the citizens. Please vote YES for these women to demonstrate that smear tactics won't work in this County, and to allow Sabina's and Ainy's valuable input to assist the County to continue to advance and improve.

Elizabeth Moss
11097 Swansfield Road
Columbia, MD 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Byron Macfarlane <byron.macfarlane@registers.maryland.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2021 4:20 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CR-117-2021 and CR-118-2021 - SUPPORT

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

Good afternoon Chair Walsh and Members of the County Council,

I write to strongly urge your support of the nominations of Ms. Sabina Taj to the Howard County Library System Board of Trustees and Ms. Ainy Haider-Shah to the Compensation Review Commission. I have gotten to know both Ms. Taj and Ms. Haider-Shah over the years and believe they're precisely the kind of thoughtful, inclusive and forward-looking citizens whose voices belong at every decision-making table in our local government.

I respectfully urge you to approve these nominations so these two dedicated members of our community can get to work in these important roles.

Thank you for your time, attention, and your service to our great county.

Sincerely,

Byron E. Macfarlane

Register of Wills for Howard County

9250 Judicial Way, Suite 1100

Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Phone: (410) 313-2133

<http://registers.maryland.gov/main/howard.html>

Sayers, Margery

From: Mark Newgent <marknewgent@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2021 6:45 AM
To: CouncilMail; Yungmann, David; Jung, Deb; Rigby, Christiana; Jones, Opel; Walsh, Elizabeth
Subject: Reject the nominations of 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.]

The Honorable Liz Walsh, Council District 1
The Honorable Opel Jones, Council District 2
The Honorable Christina Rigby, Council District 3
The Honorable Deb Jung Council, District 4
The Honorable David Yungman, Council District 5

I am writing to oppose the nomination of Sabina Taj to the Howard County Library Board of Trustees and the nomination of Ainy Haider-Shah Compensation Review Commission.

Their resumes notwithstanding, Ms. Taj and Ms. Haider Shah embrace and practice an illiberal brand of identity politics. It is an ideology that reduces individuals to mere avatars of the accident of their birth--a rejection of the very foundations of our liberal democratic values.

Through the PTA at my children's school, my wife had the unfortunate experience of being on the business end of Ms. Taj's illiberal political methods. Judging a person based solely on the color of their skin is discrimination, and Ms. Taj deployed it to perfection against my wife. As for Ms. Haider-Shah, her keyboard warring on social media has evinced a similar illiberal orientation and temperament as that of Ms. Taj. Again, my wife has the receipts. Does the council want a person with a track record of discrimination making decisions on compensation?

While positive discrimination appears to be all the rage among the denizens of Ms. Taj and Ms. Haider-Shah's political tribe, I would remind the council that non-discrimination is the official policy of the State of Maryland and Howard County, and backed by the full force of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Individuals with documented track records practicing and espousing racial discrimination should be disqualified from public service.

There is something about this brand of illiberal politics that attracts people like Ms. Taj and Ms. Haider-Shah because it gives cruelty the veneer of justice.

Howard County should not give its imprimatur to such illiberalism by appointing Ms. Taj and Ms. Haider-Shah to official county positions.

For the above-stated reasons I respectfully urge the council to reject their nominations.

Regards,

Mark Newgent
9940 Whitworth Way
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Susan Defibaugh <susankdefibaugh@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 11:34 PM
To: CouncilMail

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

Dear County Council Members,

I am in full agreement with what Tim Lattimer said, "I believe Sabina Taj and Ainy Haider-Shah are dedicated to serving the public with integrity, intelligence, and compassion. I know them to be strong advocates for equity and inclusion. Howard County must have no tolerance for hate."

I urge you to approve the nomination of Sabina to the Board of Library Trustees and Ainy's appointment to the Compensation Review Commission.

Thank you,

Susan Defibaugh
7248 Riding Hood Cir, Columbia, MD 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Krista Story Newgent <kristastorynewgent@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 10:50 AM
To: CouncilMail; Yungmann, David; Jung, Deb; Rigby, Christiana; Jones, Opel; Walsh, Elizabeth
Subject: 118-2021 to appoint Ainy Haider-Shah to the Compensation Review Commission

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

Councilmembers Walsh, Jung, Youngmann, Rigby and Jones,

I send this email in strong opposition to the appointment of Ainy Haider-Shah to the Compensation Review Commission. Ms. Haider-Shah has been a loud, unkind voice in our community for a very long time, often name calling and being intolerant of others' views.

I recently responded to a post regarding my views on the importance of school choice from the perspective of someone who grew up in PG County and attended schools that were unable to meet my learning needs. This was her reply:



I ask the council, is this the kind of person we want in a position of authority in our county? Her intolerance of anyone with an opposing thought, has been well documented throughout the county. I implore you not to appoint Ainy to the Compensation Review Commission as doing so would perpetuate her hateful rhetoric.

Regards,

Krista Newgent

Sayers, Margery

From: DEEBA Jafri <deebajafri@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 10:06 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CR117 and CR118

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

Dear County Council members,

I am writing in support of both Sabina Taj's appointment to the Howard County Public Library Board of Trustees and Ainy Haider-Shah's appointment to the Compensation Review Commission.

I have known both of these women for a number of years and know that they both want the best for everyone in Howard County.

I urge you to vote yes on their appointments.

Kind regards

Deeba Jafri
Elkridge MD (District 2)

Sayers, Margery

From: Jason Booms <jasonabooms@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 8:48 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: A more complete version of my testimony re: CR117 and CR118

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

I wasn't planning on writing anything further on the topic(s), beyond the social media posts I have already made.

However, after seeing the disparagement and invectives hurled in the direction of Ms. Sabina Taj and Ms. Ainy Haider-Shah, I felt compelled to pen this article.

Let me approach this from a couple angles.

On a personal level, I believe that Ms. Haider-Shah and Ms. Taj are honorable, ethical, and civic-minded residents of Howard County; each with a genuine interest in furthering the common good through public service.

On a political level, I don't agree with either of them on multiple issues. However, when I see baseless claims that these women are part of some nefarious schemes, claims that are simultaneously risible and infuriating, I can't leave those wild-eyed statements unaddressed.

We live in a time when the spectre of creeping authoritarianism is just an "election" or two away. Of course, how valid will many elections be in states adopting truly draconian voter suppression laws or engaging in practices which have the same effect? Within that environment, we need people of the caliber of Ms. Taj and Ms. Haider-Shah, people who are willing to step up and, through their public service, help restore integrity to a damaged society.

For having opinions, they are called "divisive." For being willing to spend hours upon hours on local boards and commissions that serve as linkages between local government and the governed, time away from their families and professional obligations, their motives are impugned.

Many of the attacks are coming from those who supposedly share their values in terms of how government can best serve the people. I would call upon these "cut-and-paste" testimony scribblers operating in the dark, especially those who call themselves Democrats, to reflect upon their words and actions. Yes, I know these are non-partisan boards and commissions, and yes, I know some will be all too eager to point this out or twist my words. And yes, I will be accused of carrying water for the "Establishment" but in a time when the Big Crunch threatens our small d-democracy, I want folks – even neoliberals – who I can trust and who I know put the people's interests first and foremost in such (relatively) small yet important roles.

I wholeheartedly support the confirmations of Ms. Haider-Shah to the Compensation Review Commission and Ms. Taj to the Board of Library Trustees.

In solidarity.

Jason Booms 10363 Cullen Terrace Columbia, MD County Council District 4

Sayers, Margery

From: Robert Wagner <rwags02@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 8:38 AM
To: CouncilMail

[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 sending this email asking the Council to vote against 117-2021 to appoint Sabina Taj to the Board of Library Trustees, AND to vote against 118-2021 to appoint Ainy Haider-Shah to the Compensation Review Commission.

Both of these appointments are ethically and racially inappropriate to hold any positions in our system. Rewarding their disgusting behavior and inappropriate conduct would be a black eye on our community.

Thank you.

Bob Wagner

Sent from my iPhone