

Sayers, Margery

From: no-reply@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Tuesday, August 3, 2021 2:32 PM
To: ddboulton@verizon.net
Subject: Council - CR 117 & 118

First Name: Dick
Last Name: Boulton
Email: ddboulton@verizon.net
Street Address: 4669 Hallowed Stream
City: Ellicott City
Subject: CR 117 & 118

Message:

I'm writing to recommend that Sabina Taj not be considered for a position as Howard County Library Trustee. Ms. Taj is widely known to be a highly divisive individual with serious conflict of interest issues. Discussions have been underway to tear down the recently renovated Central Library and, for unclear reasons, build a new library within the Howard Hughes Corporation's Merriweather District. This move would certainly be a boon to Hughes, but the benefit to Howard County residents remains undefined. Ms. Taj's multiple obligations to Hughes would not be to the library system's advantage in any Hughes/Library negotiations. Most recently, Ms. Taj served as a key player in the Hughes "Rouse Project," an unsuccessful dark-money scheme to take over the Columbia Association Board of Directors. She served in this role as a primary spokesperson in league with Ken Ulman, a reported Hughes consultant. Ms. Taj also worked closely with Philip Dodge, Executive Director of the Downtown Columbia Partnership, whose position was created and largely funded by Hughes. Mr. Dodge was the chief "Rouse Project" recruiter and organizer. He is also a current Library Board trustee. Not long ago, the president of the Howard Hughes Corporation made a slide presentation to real estate investors. A slide in that presentation is headed "HCC: The Opportunity to Control Cities" and reads: "Ownership and monopoly-like control of small cities allow HHC to both create demand and control supply of commercial entities - creating outsized risk-adjusted development opportunities for decades." Ms. Taj is an example of how HCC insinuates influence over communities by implanting operatives throughout local institutions. Ms. Taj appears to be on a joint ticket with Ainy Haider-Shah who is being considered for a position on the Library's Compensation Review Commission. I don't personally know Ainy Haider-Shah, but she apparently claims to know me. After I won a close election for Dorsey's Search's representative to the CA Board, Ms. Haider-Shah tweeted: "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." I really don't believe that this is an individual with the temperament or character to work for what is widely recognized to be one of the top library systems in the nation. Sincerely, Dick Boulton 4669 Hallowed Stream Ellicott City, MD 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Annalee Garland <garlandpiano@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 2, 2021 9:44 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CR-117

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

Hello,

This email is in support of Sabina Taj to be on the library board of trustees. As a mother of two young kids who use the library weekly, I feel that she will be a strong advocate for our needs.

Annalee Garland

Sayers, Margery

From: Miriam Bell <mtcbell@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 2, 2021 4:19 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 afternoon,

I am writing to voice my support for the appointment of Sabina Taj to the Library Board of Trustees and for the inclusion of Ainy Haider-Shah on the Compensation Review Commission. Both women have demonstrated time and again their commitment to our community and their willingness to be active participants. I have had the pleasure of meeting both Ms. Taj and Ms. Haider-Shah on multiple occasions, and have no doubt that they would provide excellent service in the positions under consideration.

I would please encourage you to vote "yes" on both CR-117 and CR-118.

Thank you for your time,
Miriam Bell
Howard County Council District 2
Oakland Mills, Columbia

Sayers, Margery

From: Lisa Marini <lisavmarini@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 2, 2021 1:35 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support 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.]

Dear Councilmembers,

I fully support the appointment of Sabina Taj to the Howard County Library System Board of Trustees and Ainy Haider-Shah to the Compensation Review Commission. These two people have already demonstrated their commitment to Howard County through their many years of involvement in community organizations. Their individual professional experiences will be assets to the boards/commissions to which they have been nominated.

Best regards,
Lisa Marini
District 4

Sayers, Margery

From: Amy R Brooks <amyreeneebrooks@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 2, 2021 12:49 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.]

Greetings,

Sabina Taj and Ainy Haider-Shah are two strong, dedicated community leaders who have been appointed to serve on the Library Board of Trustees and the Compensation Review Commission.

I'm so excited for their tenure and representation in these roles.

I support for CR-117 and CR-118.

Amy Brooks

Sayers, Margery

From: Royalty, Wendy
Sent: Sunday, August 1, 2021 7:17 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: Fwd: Vote NO to Sabina Taj & Ainy Haider-Shah Appointments

For the record

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From: Jake Burdett <jakeburdett11@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 8:41 AM
To: Royalty, Wendy
Subject: Vote NO to Sabina Taj & Ainy Haider-Shah Appointments

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

Wendy,

I'm writing to you as a staffer of Liz Walsh's to express my wishes to see my Councilmember vote AGAINST the appointments of Sabina Taj and Ainy Haider-Shah to any County Commission or Board. I had the displeasure of working with both of these women on a Board of Education campaign, and found both of them to be extremely unethical and unscrupulous actors, who I would never trust with any position of real authority or responsibility. These people regularly bully and smear honest and hardworking community activists, and spread propaganda on behalf of their elected officials they've pledged loyalty to, including by propping up the developer donors and PR that keeps their people in office.

That, in addition to Sabina Taj's proximity to the development lobby (specifically Howard Hughes Corporation) through her recent position as a Board Member of the dark money group The Rouse Project that tried to take over the CA Board, should be enough grounds to reject these nominations. It is speculated that Howard Hughes would like to build housing at the Central Library location in Howard County, so having Sabina Taj sit on this Board/Commission would be a pretty obvious conflict of interest. Also, knowing the character of both of these women pretty well, I'm 100% sure they will both use these positions to further their own self interests, rather than the interests of the community.

Sincerely,
Jake Burdett, a D1 Constituent

5824 Timberview Drive
Elkridge, MD 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Lindsay Lukas <dakota1956@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, July 30, 2021 12:09 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support for 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 support Sabina Taj and Ainy Haider-Shah for their pending appointments.

Lindsay Lukas
Wilde Lake, Columbia

Sayers, Margery

From: Kirstin Nelson <kirstin99@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 30, 2021 12:09 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support for 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.]

As a resident of Howard County, I sickened at the smear campaign launched against Sabina Taj and Ainy Haider-Shah. Sicked but not surprised in any way. The racist vitriol coming from so many Howard County residents must be addressed by standing up against them.

Please vote in favor of CR-117 and CR-118.

Regards,
Kirstin Nelson
410-409-0651