

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2021 Legislative Session

Legislative day # 12

RESOLUTION NO. 117 - 2021

Introduced by: Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Sabina Taj to the Board of Library Trustees.

Introduced and read first time on July 6, 2021.

By order

Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

Read for a second time and a public hearing held on July 21, 2021.

By order

Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted Adopted with amendments Failed Withdrawn by the County Council on Sept 8, 2021.

Certified by

Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

NOTE: ~~[[text in brackets]]~~ indicates deletions from existing language; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing language. Strike-out indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

Sabina Taj

Professional Experience

Howard County Board of Education Member, Howard Community Public School System (2018–Present)

An elected government official responsible for oversight of a school system with a \$900 million annual budget and 58,000 students. Represents the community in setting policy; develops the school system's budget for approval by the County Executive and Council; responds to critical school issues as they are identified by the community; advocates for educational priorities with a focus on ensuring representation, equity, and inclusion.

Braitmayer Foundation, Ellicott City, MD, Executive Director (2005–Present)

Directs and coordinates the operations of a family foundation that funds K-12 educational initiatives nationally. Arranges annual site visits to multiple locations around the country. Organizes and oversees the logistics of semi-annual board meetings, including board docket preparation. Oversees grants management and all aspects of the application and reporting process. Maintains subject-area expertise in order to educate the board on trends in the field. Represents the foundation in the philanthropic, nonprofit, and academic communities.

Howard Community College, Columbia, MD, Adjunct Professor, Arts and Humanities (2016-2018)

Taught "Introduction to Creative Arts," for K-12 student teachers, and "Arts, Culture, and Ideas," a history of art in the context of the social and political climates from the 16th Century to the present. Developed a diverse curriculum, one that provided an inclusive perspective reflective of the college's diverse student body. Artists covered include Theaster Gates, Josephine Baker, Chris Offili, Gertrude Stein, and Lalla Essaydi.

Columbia Foundation, Columbia, MD, Program Officer (2004-2005)

Managed the Foundation's unrestricted grants programs, donor-advised funds, scholarships, and awards. Worked with local leaders on community-wide projects to effect positive change. Met regularly with nonprofits and community stakeholders to ensure the Foundation's work remained relevant to the community's needs. Kept abreast of key efforts and conversations in the community so that it could inform the foundation's work.

No Kid Hungry, Washington, DC, Senior Grants Manager (2001-2004)

Managed five national and international grant-making programs that disbursed \$5MM annually. Organized national and international learning trips for corporate partners

around issues of poverty and hunger. Supervised multiple staff, fellows, and interns while serving as resident expert for staff, donors, and corporate partners.

Congressional Hunger Center, Washington, DC, Program Director (1999-2001)
Managed all aspects of the Hunger Fellowship program. Interviewed, hired, and supervised twenty-two fellows annually. Developed an extensive training program and provided technical assistance on research, policy, and professional growth. Maintained relationships with field and policy partners.

Relevant Community Experience

Howard County Council Racial Equity Task Force, Howard County, MD (2020- Present)

The Task Force recommends legislative actions to the Howard County Council to remedy racial disparities and inequities in our community by: 1) reviewing indicators of disparate outcomes, findings of applicable studies, best practices, and local data to ascertain pertinent information on issues related to racial equity and identifying metrics for measuring progress in improving racial equity, 2) identifying new County policies and changes to County ordinances and policies that could improve racial equity, 3) recommending legislation to the County Council that can be passed that will improve racial equity, 4) recommending actions that other Howard County entities that receive County funds can take that will improve racial equity outcomes

Strong Future Maryland, MD (2020 - Present)

Strong Future Maryland, founded in 2020 by President Obama's Education Secretary John B. King Jr., seeks to help Maryland recover and rebuild from the COVID-19 crisis, the related economic downturn, and the centuries old crisis of systemic racism in an equitable and sustainable way. The organization works to advance bold, progressive policy changes to address systemic inequality and promote a sustainable, just, and prosperous economic future for all Marylanders.

Howard County Arts Council, Board Member, Ellicott City, MD (2019-Present)

The Council is a nonprofit that serves and enriches Howard County by fostering the arts, artists, and arts organizations. It advocates, supports, and provides access to diverse arts experiences within the community.

Howard County Public School System, Columbia, MD Board of Education Operating Budget Review Committee, Member Appointee (2017-2018)

The committee makes budget recommendations to the Board and serves as a channel for the public to provide advice, express concerns, and support the development of the county's \$900 million annual school budget.

**Collaboration to Support Inclusive Communities, Howard County, MD
(2017-2019)**

A collaboration between the school district, Howard Community College, University of Maryland Baltimore County, Latino Action Council, County Library System, County Executive's Office, Columbia Association, and local leaders to leverage the group's collective resources to develop programming on bias and inclusion. Efforts supported by the collaboration included the "Undesign the Red Line" exhibit at the library, and two workshops hosted by Waking Up White author Debby Irving.

**Centennial Lane Elementary PTA, DEI Committee Founder and Chair
(2019)**

The committee was formed in response to a lack of diverse leadership in the school's PTA. The committee's efforts focused on developing inclusive programming, curriculum, and training to better reflect the needs of a school that is two-thirds students of color. A team of people from the Chinese, Korean, Indian, African-American, and Latino communities worked to: 1) create learning circles to better understand the experiences of underrepresented voices; 2) develop inclusive programming to better reflect the overall school community; 3) facilitate dialogues about how best to celebrate the heritage of the school's children; and 4) examine the PTA's practices and needed system-wide policy changes.

**Little Patuxent Review (LPR), Board Member, Columbia, MD
(2015-2019)**

LPR is a journal of literature and arts that publishes poetry, short fiction, creative nonfiction, and artwork. The journal welcomes contributions from new and established writers and artists from the Mid-Atlantic region. Issues periodically address social justice themes like incarceration.

Howard County Human Services Master Plan Committee, Member, MD

Developed a comprehensive government-led Human Services Master Plan to create a set of goals to guide the county and its nonprofit partners in the delivery of human services and to evaluate county funded programs.

Leadership Howard County, Participant and Committee Member, Columbia, MD

Participated in a select, one-year program that fosters communication, teaches community leaders about county services and functions, and in the process creates a rich and engaged alumni network who as a result of the program continue to support and serve as leaders in the county to help it address its needs.

**Mayor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Child Nutrition Programs, Program Expert,
Washington, DC**

Served on Mayor Anthony Williams' task force to analyze and recommend improvements to child nutrition programs in the District of Columbia.

Education

California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks, CA

BAs in Psychology and Sociology (double major with honors in both departments); minor in art history

Georgetown University, Washington, DC

MA in Philosophy of Psychology. Thesis: "The Effect of Psychosocial Factors on the Immune System." Worked in an immunology lab for a year evaluating the impact of stress on the immune system and general wellbeing.

Languages

Fluent in spoken Hindi and Urdu; partial comprehension of Spanish and Gujrati.

CR 117-2021

Sayers, Margery

From: Jnstuck13 <jnstuck13@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 8:02 AM
To: Hclsboard; CouncilMail
Subject: Letter of support for Sabina Taj

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

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing in support of Sabina Taj's nomination for a position on the board of the Howard County Library system. I can't think of a better person to be nominated. I've known Sabina for over a decade and she has continually dedicated her time and talents to education in our county. Sabina is a wonderful mother and puts that same passion into education for all of our children and community members. Her years of experience would be an asset to our much loved library system and provide another diverse perspective in serving our county.

Thanks for your time,

Jennifer Stuck

Mad River Bakes
<https://m.facebook.com/madriverbakes/>

Sayers, Margery

From: Vanessa Reis <vanessareis128@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 10:41 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.]

September 7, 2021

I am writing to share my support for Sabina Taj to the HCLS Board of Trustees. I had sent a letter previously but it was not included in the other written testimonies so I wanted to write once more to reiterate my support for Ms. Taj.

Ms. Taj's experience in education, leadership, and commitment to serving the people of Howard County has been demonstrated through her extensive work in various educational settings. Her commitment to equity helped the Howard County Public School System actualize their policy for educational equity, and codify policies and practices to ensure every student is given the opportunity to attain their goals towards their future.

In addition, Ms. Taj's work at the Howard County Community College, and passion for strengthening community bonds will further support the HCLS mission to deliver high-quality education for all. Her experience in working with different community groups, individuals, and students will be valuable to the HCLS third pillar, Instructive & Enlightening Experiences, to enhance and further the library's initiatives.

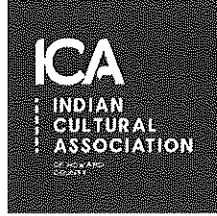
Having known her personally for many years, I know firsthand that Sabina Taj is an incredibly ethical, moral person who consistently advocates for the most vulnerable in the community and prioritizes inclusivity. She is a leader who asks critical questions while making sure everyone feels welcome. Amid rising toxicity of the political climate, which has seeped down to the local levels, this ugly whisper campaign in response to her inclusive and thoughtful leadership is clear to me a baseless and farcical character assassination rooted in misogyny and Islamophobia, and by no means a measure of her character. I continue to be disturbed by twisted smear campaigns such as this that strive to silence critical dialogues and silence community leaders, particularly women of color.

On an individual level as I am a recent college graduate, Sabina has been an inspiring mentor to me and other young people, and has taught me what it means to be a true community member and community leader; and to ask crucial questions that others may be afraid to ask, while remaining empathetic, compromising, and understanding towards all.

For all of the stated reasons, I encourage the county council to approve Ms. Taj's appointment to the HCLS Board of Trustees.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Reis
Howard County Resident



September 7, 2021

Dear Councilmembers Walsh, Jones, Rigby, Jung & Yungmann,

While fundamentalist Muslims celebrate the fall of Kabul and the Taliban victory over the United States of America, Howard County misses the ball with a theatrical play about "Islamophobia" on **9/11/2021**, the 20th anniversary of the day America was attacked.

Poor guidance from extremist advisors, or poor judgment? Either way, it is extremely insensitive. <https://www.facebook.com/HoCoGovExec/photos/a.864703293590453/4412852152108865>

Ball's support of Muslim propaganda is un-American. Kids who lost their parents on this day 20 years ago are young adults now. Americans who lost their son, daughter, grandchild, husband, wife, friend, neighbor, co-worker on 9/11 and its aftermath... have lived in pain for 20 years. This represents a celebration of evil and its terrorist ways, while the actual victims of 9/11 are dismissed, their pain and suffering, minimized and ignored.

This is the same administration that nominated **Hinduphobic SABINA TAJ** (a divisive individual with questionable ties to developers and a poor record during her tenure at the Board of Education), for the Board of Trustees of the Howard County Library System (HCLS).

Indian-Americans are shocked by the open suppression of minorities. Sikhs, Hindus, and other minorities also bore the brunt of the backlash of 9/11, yet they are summarily dismissed. Earlier this year, Sikhs were massacred, gunned down in an apparent hate crime, but not a word from the County Executive or his administration. However, they seem to think it is important to weigh in with anti-Jewish, anti-Hindu/anti-India propaganda.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/young-sikhs-still-struggle-with-post-sept-11-discrimination/ar-AAObPWh>

The Howard County Government and the HoCo Office of Human Rights & Equity have snubbed the **LARGEST IMMIGRANT MINORITY in Howard County**. They have refused to acknowledge receipt of our complaints about the discrimination faced by Hindus of Howard County, time and time again. We deserve and demand better from the County administration. We urge the County Government to open an investigation about this matter and to clearly **denounce Hinduphobia**, without fear of reprisal from radical extremists.

10020 Baltimore National Pike #6997, Ellicott City, MD 21042
contact@icahoward.org - Ph. (410) 567-6599 - www.icahoward.org

Attn: Councilmembers Walsh, Jones, Rigby, Jung & Yungmann

September 7, 2021

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HoCo should solemnly grieve the loss of innocent American lives on this day of mourning. No other diversion is acceptable. The oppressors play victimhood, promote propaganda to advance a false narrative, while these very extremists target other minorities, claim phobia as they slaughter non-believers - Hindus, Jews, Christians... alike. The proper Muslim community response should be a solemn prayer for peace and unity & a **denunciation of radical Islam**, instead of propaganda to shift the blame away from radical fundamentalists.

This is on the heels of a national conference organized by these same extremists to malign Hindus and India, on this day, the **20th anniversary of the worst attack on America!** Dare I remind them that it wasn't the Hindus who attacked USA and killed nearly 3,000 innocent Americans and injured more than 6,000 unsuspecting Americans? **Four of these victims were from Howard County.** About 9000 families were destroyed on 9/11, including more than 400 first responders - not by Hindus, or Jews, or Sikhs, or Christians, but by radical Islamic fundamentalists.

https://theprint.in/opinion/hinduphobia-is-a-reality-scholars-at-dismantling-global-hindutva-conference-must-know/hinduphobia-is-a-reality-scholars-at-dismantling-global-hindutva-conference-must-know/728983/?fbclid=IwAR0MJ3MyVnw4_VOc9a9bkEq8XwXOthpuyITdK2n7XJM0o69Yoeulfmc2Ffs

CAIR (Council on American Islamic Relations) is known to have ties to terror groups (according to the State Department). The FBI has broken all ties with this group. How is it that Howard County is putting CAIR representatives on Committees, Boards, Workgroups, County leadership posts, and sponsoring their events? <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/fbi-cuts-ties-with-cair-following-terror-financing-trial>

Calvin Ball is divisive and divides us. His nominee #SabinaTaj divides us. Thousands oppose Taj's nomination and are pained by it. We fear for our safety and that of our children. We demand better from our leaders.

Councilmembers Walsh, Jones, Rigby, Jung & Yungmann, the County is sliding toward extremism. Sabina Taj's appointment is divisive. We urge you to **SHOW COURAGE**. Fear of retribution should not affect your vote. This is America! Vote for equity, inclusion, and diversity. We seek your help in stamping out and dismantling hate (Kindly refer to my email of July 26th.) We urge you to demand a solemn day of mourning on 9/11 and encourage unity as opposed to hateful propaganda.

Sincerely,

/s/ Sanjay Srivastava

Sanjay Srivastava, President

Indian Cultural Association

<https://www.facebook.com/icaHoward>

cc. President, Howard County Library System, Ms. Tonya Aikens
Howard County Library System, Board of Trustees
Howard County Office of Human Rights & Equity
Howard County Executive, Dr. Calvin Ball

10020 Baltimore National Pike #6997, Elllicott City, MD 21042
contact@icahoward.org - Ph. (410) 567-6599 - www.icaHoward.org

Sayers, Margery

From: rasiddiqi@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, September 6, 2021 10:07 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Rizwan Siddiqi
Subject: Support for 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 County Council Members,

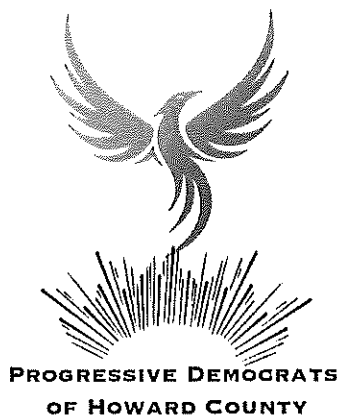
My name is Rizwan Siddiqi and resident of 5410 Josie Court, Ellicott City, Maryland. I urge you to vote YES on Council Resolution 117-2021 appointing Sabina Taj to the Howard County Library System Board of Trustees. Ms Taj's experience in education, her strong leadership skills, and her commitment to Howard County all make her an outstanding choice.

She showed great commitment to all students while on the Board of Education. She has served in a variety of other roles, including as an executive director of an educational foundation, an adjunct professor at Howard County Community College, as a program officer at the Columbia Foundation, and currently serves as a board member on a number of local boards including the Howard County Arts Council. Ms. Taj is a graduate of the prestigious Leadership Howard County and has a passion for strengthening the community that will help HCLS advance its mission to deliver high-quality education for all. She will be an excellent addition to the Howard County Library Board of Trustees.

Additionally, it is noted that Ms. Taj has full support and recommendation of the board of directors of the United Maryland Muslim Council (UMMC) and the Howard County Muslim Council (HCMC) for appointment to this position. For all of the stated reasons, please approve Ms. Taj's appointment by voting YES on Council Resolution 117-2021.

Sincerely,

Rizwan Siddiqi
Chair, UMMC
Director, HCMC
5410 Josie Court
Ellicott City, MD 21043



Members of the County Council,

We are writing to express our opposition to the appointment of Ms. Sabina Taj to the Board of Library Trustees. This appointment would pose a conflict of interest because Ms. Taj is affiliated with the Howard Hughes Corporation (HHC), which has an interest in Central Library property. Ms. Taj cannot represent both the public interest and the corporate interests with which she is affiliated.

Historically, personnel appointments to county boards and commissions garner very little attention from the public. Most appointments warrant little scrutiny as they allow volunteers to serve their community. There are a few, however, that require attention from the public because of their potentially adverse impacts on the county's budget and because they are against the public interest. This appointment is one such example.

The affiliations Ms. Taj has with HHC are public information. Since her election to the Board of Education, Ms. Taj has openly collaborated with developers to advance their interests (e.g. her collaboration with Howard Hughes-affiliated group Center Maryland and the Maryland Building Industry Association throughout the 2019 redistricting process). More recently, she was the founding member of The Rouse Project, a dark-money group, established for the express purpose of controlling the Columbia Association Board.

It was funded by Howard Hughes Corporation, and received widespread criticism from the community, including from former County Executive Liz Bobo, for lack of transparency and for seeking to use the CA Board to further the interests of HHC.

The fact that HHC seeks control of the property where the Central Library is located is also in the public record. In the Development Rights and Responsibilities Agreement between Howard Hughes Corporation and Howard County signed in 2016, the "Central Library" appears over 100 times. One of the provisions of the DRRA is for the County to give HHC the valuable location of the "existing central library" in exchange for some other land for a "new central library."

Subsequently a set of complicated financing schemes will take place that would allow, among other things, HHC to use county dollars to fund a parking garage and comingle other privately beneficial ventures with public needs.

Not a single venture undertaken by HHC has accrued in any meaningful way to the public benefit. Instead, in exchange for hundreds of units in density bonus and tens of millions of dollars in tax increment financing, HHC has built 24 "affordable units" among the thousands of units that are currently online.

We do not believe that a former member of The Rouse Project and an individual with clear and open ties with Howard Hughes Corporation should hold a position that will influence and direct public funds to private gain. The interests of the public and those of HHC are in conflict, and an appointee to represent the public interest cannot have affiliations with HHC.

Please vote no on this appointment.

August 30, 2021

TO: County Executive Calvin Ball

County Council Members

- Opel Jones
- Deb Jung
- Christiana Mercer Rigby
- Elizabeth Walsh
- David Yungmann

HCLS President & CEO Tonya Aikens

HCLS Board of Trustees

- Ankur Delal
- Phillip Dodge
- Robert Metz
- Thomas Munns
- Louise Riemer
- Bruce Rothschild

FROM: Jean F. Moon
 11117 Wood Elves Way
 Columbia, MD 21044

RE: Support for the candidacy of Sabina Taj for Trustee, Howard County Library System

As a long time member of the Howard County community who has been involved with local businesses, nonprofit groups and other institutions, **I am writing in support of Sabina Taj's candidacy for Trustee of the Howard County Library System.**

I have known Sabina for more than 15 years and have watched her efforts on behalf of the people and organizations of Howard County.

- It is hard to imagine a more intelligent, hard-working volunteer, advocate and leader than Sabina.

- Her commitment to public education aligns with the Howard County Library's focus.
- Her thoughtful analytical skills and problem-solving aptitude is of benefit to whatever group with which she is associated.
- Her connections are especially welcome now as our county, like others, comes to terms with issues of diversity, inclusion and equity in all our institutions.
- She understands and respects the opportunities presented by the HCLS.
- She wants to serve this important institution and the people of Howard County.

I strongly support Sabina Taj's candidacy for Trustee of the Howard County Library System and encourage your vote in her favor. Thank you for your consideration.

Sayers, Margery

From: Niti Srivastava <promotingdei@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 28, 2021 12:08 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Vote NO to Sabina Taj - 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 the Executive Director of the Indian Cultural Association of Howard County (ICA) and a longtime resident of Howard County. My thoughts below are echoed by members of our community. I was asked to write to you by an overwhelming number of people in our community, out of an outpouring, from a feeling of helplessness and a tremendous sense of vulnerability, and fear for the future of our children and the community we live in. People are fearful of raising an objection. In speaking out, they are branded Islamophobic, misogynist, racist or other.

I am compelled to write you and urge you to reject Ms. Sabina Taj's nomination to the Howard County Library System's (HCLS) Board of Trustees. Taj's appointment to the HCLS Board will adversely impact Howard County residents and will undermine the County's goals of diversity and inclusion.

Ms. Taj's tenure at the Board of Education was riddled with controversy and questionable conduct. She lacks the support of the community and is not suitable for this position. Many in the community are alarmed by her involvement with the Rouse project and are dismayed that Ms. Taj is being considered for a position that would significantly impact all Howard County residents.

Ms. Taj held public office. She has a record. She is answerable for her actions and cannot scream Islamophobia or misogyny, or racism or whatever, every time she is called out for her actions. These cannot be the alternates to thoughtful debate and inquiry. Questions related to ethics violations have been raised by members of our community. I believe Ms. Taj should address these publicly instead of having her political allies, including organizations such as CAIR (Council on American Islamic Relations), a group known to have terror ties, proclaim victimhood on her behalf.

<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/fbi-cuts-ties-with-cair-following-terror-financing-trial>

Even more troubling is Ms. Sabina Taj's HINDUPHOBIA which was on full display when she wanted the Howard County Muslim Council to pick **HALF** of the movies the Indian Cultural Association was showing during movie night(s) at the Clarksville Commons. Her demands were preposterous and completely inappropriate. It does however give us a window into her thought processes and her inclinations.

ICA chose movies without consideration of race or religion. Taj, a public official, attempted to exercise undue influence on a public charity to advance her personal, 'religious activist' agenda.

We are seeing these seeds of extremism play out in the world today. Her outlook stokes racial division and promotes religious intolerance. It disqualifies her from any public office in this or any County in the United States. Ms. Sabina Taj's nomination must be withdrawn.

I am alarmed that Sabina Taj runs to the Muslim Council before watching a BOLLYWOOD MOVIE. If we are to consult or seek the approval of the Muslim Council for something as inane as movies, I suspect that every action/decision of *Ms. Taj will be a proxy vote for the Muslim Council*. Additionally, if this is the standard we are to follow, we must ensure that all faiths are represented on the HCLS Board of Trustees. We must make sure that we are treating ALL religions equally and are INCLUSIVE. If the County is to proceed with this candidate, I would recommend making room (additional seats) for representatives of the Christian, Jew, Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, Parsi, Baha'i faiths, as well as atheists & agnostics, to be representative of the people you serve.

I strongly recommend that in light of Ms. Sabina Taj's religious activism, her ties to the Howard County Muslim Council be examined thoroughly. Taj's prior votes, while she was a Member of the Board of Education at the Howard County Public Schools, must also be scrutinized. Ms. Taj's email and phone records will reveal this information. As a Board of Education member, Ms. Taj had the duty to watch for the interest of every child, not just that of one single, religious group.

Regarding the claims made by Ms. Taj's supporters that she was just trying to be inclusive, let me put it in plain words. *Ms. Taj did not care for the inclusion of the other religious communities – Hindus, Christians, Jews, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Baha'is, Parsis, etc. from this exercise in inclusivity*. Apparently, Ms. Sabina Taj's inclusivity doctrine begins and ends with Muslims. Taj wants half the proverbial "pie" for the Muslims, at the expense of all others. She seeks to disproportionately advance the Muslim cause. *Ms. Taj is divisive and Muslim-centric, to the detriment of all other religious groups* in Howard County.

Taj's affiliations, prior actions, and comments are divisive; Her Muslim-centric outlook **DISQUALIFIES** her from serving on this sacred institution. It is apparent that she cannot fulfill her duties impartially, without prejudice. If Ms. Taj is appointed, it will be disastrous for Howard County. Her appointment runs the risk of undermining the entire library system and its efforts to be inclusive.

Indian Americans are the largest immigrant minority in Howard County, and we reject this polarizing, Hinduphobic candidate. **Howard County** must reject divisions along religious lines or risk its slide toward **becoming a theocracy**. As a public servant, championing only one religion (her own), at the expense of all others, is grossly unethical, extremist, and **fundamentally un-American**. Sabina Taj is free to advocate for the Muslim Council as a private citizen, but such people should never be entrusted with public office.

I strongly urge you to REJECT this candidate and nominate someone who will be INCLUSIVE and consider the wellbeing of the ALL Howard County residents.

Sincerely,

Dr. Niti Srivastava
Ellicott City, MD

Sayers, Margery

From: uzma@shafi.org
Sent: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 8:11 AM
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,
Uzma Shafi

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Aisha ~~~ <aishaleos@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 7:50 AM
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,

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Thank you,
Sincerely
Aisha malik

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Sajida Anwar <anwrnaz@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 12:13 AM
To: Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel;
CouncilMail
Subject: Vote YES on Council Resolution 117-2021

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--

null

Sayers, Margery

From: Arifa Sattar <arifasattar@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 11:31 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,

Arifa Sattar

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Jennifer Winters <jenniferwinters56@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 8:15 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,

As a parent, public school teacher, and Howard County citizen, I am reaching out to share my support for the appointment of Sabina Taj to the Howard County Library System Board of Trustees.

I have come to know Sabina as a neighbor, fellow educator, and friend. Sabina works tirelessly to make Howard County the best place to live, work, and learn in Maryland, and I am absolutely confident that she will be an incredible asset to the HCLS Board of Trustees. Sabina is a voice for equity and inclusiveness, and her compassion and intelligence are needed right now in Howard County.

I encourage you all to vote YES on Council Resolution 117-2021 ("A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Sabina Taj to the Board of Library Trustees"). Leaders like Sabina are necessary if we want to honor Howard County's devotion to diversity and equity.

With deepest respect,

Jennifer Winters
10224 Bristol Channel
Ellicott City, MD 21042
954-554-2477

Sayers, Margery

From: Amal Agabein <amagabein@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 6:57 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,
Amal Agabein

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Monica Ennaciri <monica.ennaciri@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 6:39 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.

Sincerely,
Monica Ennaciri
6461 Empty Song Rd
Columbia MD 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Jean Silver-Isenstadt <jeansi@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 6:08 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.

Thank you,
Jean Silver-Isenstadt

Testimony by Hiruy Hadgu

08/24/2021

CR111-2021, CR117-2021, and CR118-2021

A few years ago, a member of the Columbia Democratic Club, Mr. Bob Ford was appointed to the Human Rights Commission. He went on to serve as the Chair of this Commission in 2020. During his tenure as Chair, Mr. Ford declined to stand for undocumented immigrants who were detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) at the County's detention center. Instead of standing with the immigration advocates, he covered for the County Executive's incomprehensible resistance to cancel the contract. Even though Mr. Ford finally voted to cancel the contract, it was too late. The fate of the contract was sealed after a state-level bill was passed to cancel all contracts in Maryland.

Why is this important?

The County Council is currently considering four political appointments put forward by the County Executive and Councilmember Rigby. These political appointments are either a reward for creating the toxic political culture in the County, for participating in the disruption of the Columbia Democratic Club's meetings when it actively engaged in calling out the County Executive's terrible misdeeds, or simply a plan to put in place the right people in the right positions to help advance a developer interest.

I urge the county council to vote no on these appointments as I am not confident it is in the public interest. Much like the unfortunate events at the Human Rights Commission, vulnerable members of the public will take a back seat in the interests of advancing party of political goals.

CR111-2021: I oppose the appointment of Reverend Regina M. Clay to the Howard County Local Children's Board.

The Board states that "[r]ecently, The Board identified priorities and designed strategies to help ensure Howard County is a place where all children can thrive."

The Board goes on to identify the priorities as follows:

- Affordable and Quality Education and Training
- Increase Inclusiveness, Awareness and Coordination of Resources to Meet the Needs of Each Community
- Access to Affordable and Quality Behavioral Health Care

I fail to see how Reverend Clay can successfully discharge the priorities identified by the Board. Reverend Clay is a founding member of The Rouse Project, a dark-money developer-funded group, which was established to take over the Columbia Association by replacing existing CA Board of Directors with candidates who would support Howard Hughes Corporation's quest to "control cities." This group cynically used the benevolent goals of diversity and equity to rile up the residents of Columbia, even though it had a very transparent agenda of using public

property and tax dollars for private gain thereby creating inequity and affecting the very goals of the Local Children's Board.

Someone who works with such a group should not be in such an important position. I urge you to vote no on this appointment.

CR117-2021: I oppose the appointment of Ms. Sabina Taj to the Howard County Library System Board of Trustees.

Ms. Taj's appointment will benefit Howard Hughes Corporation in its quest to "control cities." Since her election to the Board of Education, Ms. Taj has openly collaborated with developers to advance their interests.

As BOE member, Ms. Taj used her platform to advance the development industry's agenda. One such event was hosted by an entity called Center Maryland, a developer-funded lobbying and PR group that works closely with the Democratic establishment.

The development industry in Howard County has played a major role for the inequities and lack of affordable housing in Howard County. Instead of standing with community members and condemning their actions, Ms. Taj used her platform to advance their interests by appearing as a featured speaker at an event hosted by Center Maryland and the Maryland Building Industry Association in a "conference" on educational equity and housing affordability. A clear misalignment of interests and dereliction of responsibility.

More recently, she was the founding member of The Rouse Project, a dark-money group, established for the express purpose of controlling the Columbia Association Board. At the time, community leaders such as former County Executive Liz Bobo shared their concerns and raised alarms by calling out the not-so-benevolent goals of The Rouse Project and urging the public to reject them.

It is no secret that TRP was funded by Howard Hughes Corporation. However, the entity has yet to come clean about its sources of funds.

Given that Ms. Taj chose to participate and lend her platform to an entity that has shown clear disdain to transparency, I am troubled that she is under consideration for a public position where transparency and a track-record of advancing the public interest are a prerequisite.

This appointment is a choice made by Howard Hughes Corporation to advance the interests of Howard Hughes Corporation.

Please vote no on this appointment.

CR118-2021: I oppose the appointments of Mr. Michael Butera and Ms. Ainy Haider-Shah to the Compensation Review Commission.

As stated, Mr. Butera's appointment appears to be some sort of a reward for playing a major and consequential role in the disruption of the Columbia Democratic Club meetings. While Mr. Butera appeared conciliatory and spoke about fiduciary responsibility at the Club meetings he did not appear interested to learn more about the Club Treasurer's lack of fiduciary responsibility.

There did not appear to be any impartiality in his behavior and he succeeded along with Reverend Clay in shutting down the Club's attempt to get to the bottom of the inconsistencies observed by some of the Club officers in the Club's finances. I am concerned that an appointment put forward to reward such behavior does not serve the public interest.

In a recent statement, Councilmember Rigby stated that she nominated Ms. Ainy Haider-Shah because she is a "strong advocate for pay equity in the workplace, she has experience working in multiple governmental agencies, and she has experience in human resources and staffing." She goes on to say, "[m]y goal was to nominate someone who would approach the Commission with a lens of pay equity and someone who has work experience in both HR and in government."

While I appreciate all the "hot-button" keywords that rile people up in Councilmember Rigby's statement, such as "equity", Ms. Haider-Shah has played a key role in the toxic rhetoric that often grips the county. She often engages in smears and participates in appalling levels of cyber-bullying in order to silence critics of the Democratic Establishment.

Many know that I am a vocal critic of the developer influence in the county's politics and the impact on equity. I am okay being the target of any criticisms including the vicious ones lodged by Ms. Shah. However, I am not okay with any attempts to silence me by putting my family in danger by disclosing my address.

Ms. Haider-Shah along with other members of the Howard County Democratic Party were part of such an effort after I published a report that raised concerns about The Rouse Project's plans to siphon taxpayer dollars on behalf of Howard Hughes Corporation. Reverend Regina Clay and Ms. Taj, who are nominated to the Local Children's Board and the Library System Board of Trustees, Respectively are members of The Rouse Project.

It is unfortunate that Councilmember Rigby thought someone who engages in cyber-bullying and intimidation tactics is appropriate for this appointment. I hope the rest of the county council does not agree.

Please vote no on this appointment.

Sayers, Margery

From: Hena Rahman <hayub@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 3:42 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David;
CouncilMail
Subject: Vote YES on Council Resolution 117-2021

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

[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,
Hena Rahman

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Razea Desai <razeadesai@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:17 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David;
CouncilMail
Subject: Vote YES on Council Resolution 117-2021

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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

Dear Councilmembers,

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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,
[Insert your name here]

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Mavis Ellis <mavisellis@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 12:24 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David;
CouncilMail
Subject: Vote YES on Council Resolution 117-2021

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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

Dear Councilmembers,

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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,
Mavis Ellis, Past Chair
Howard County Board of Education

Sayers, Margery

From: Robert Hopps <robert.hopps@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 12:06 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David;
CouncilMail
Subject: Vote YES on Council Resolution 117-2021

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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Dear Councilmembers,

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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,
[Insert your name here]

Zoha Hopps
Keller Williams Realty Services
2424 N Federal Hwy, Suite 150
Boca Raton, FL 33431
Cell: 425-344-2708
Email: zzhopps@gmail.com
Website: zzhopps.kw.com
Each office is independently owned and operated

Sayers, Margery

From: Afia Khan <agulzari@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 11:38 AM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David;
CouncilMail
Subject: Vote YES on Council Resolution 117-2021

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

[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,
Afia Khan

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: ferhad desai <ferhad.desai@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 11:17 AM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David;
CouncilMail
Subject: Vote YES on Council Resolution 117-2021

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

[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,
Ferhad Desai

Sayers, Margery

From: Zahir Adil <zahir_adil@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 11:06 AM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David;
CouncilMail
Subject: Vote YES on Council Resolution 117-2021

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

[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 inspired by Islamophobic zeal, to derail a critical appointment by stoking fear and false outrage against a valued member of our community.

Thank you,
Zahir Adil
Billerica MA
Save India From Fascism

++++

Linux! The heart of them all...

Ubuntu, Mint, SuSE, Debian, RedHat, Fedora, Android, Chromebook

Full-feature Office suites: www.LibreOffice.org www.OpenOffice.org

Sayers, Margery

From: Baker, Kevin
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 5:52 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: CONFIRM Sabina Taj for Library System Board of Trustees

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

For CR117.

From: Brian Kramer <bk5508@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 5:45 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth <ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov>; Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>; Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>; Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>; Yungmann, David <dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: CONFIRM Sabina Taj for Library System Board of 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 support for the appointment of former Board of Education member Sabina Taj to the Howard County Library System Board of Trustees. I've known Sabina as a fierce advocate for students in Howard County, and her history of advocacy within the HCPSS system speaks for itself. It'd be incredibly difficult to find a more qualified candidate for this position.

Sabina has always worked hard to educate students in Howard County, and her appointment to the Board of Trustees will allow her to continue this advocacy and strengthen a key public good: public libraries. As a fellow educator, I recognize the importance of strong public libraries in teaching literacy to all students everywhere.

I urge every Councilmember to vote for Resolution 117-2021 to confirm Sabina Taj to the Library System Board of Trustees.

Thank you,
Brian Kramer

Sayers, Margery

From: Amal Hussain <arifhussain6@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 3:46 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David;
CouncilMail
Subject: Vote YES on Council Resolution 117-2021

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

[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,
[Insert your name here]

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: R Susan Grossman <rabbiima@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 1:36 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David;
CouncilMail
Cc: Rabbi G
Subject: Fw: Support for Library System Trustee Vote

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

EWalsh@howardcountymd.gov,

OJones@howardcountymd.gov,

CRigby@howardcountymd.gov,

DJung@howardcountymd.gov,

DYungmann@howardcountymd.gov,

councilmail@howardcountymd.gov

Subject: Vote YES on Council Resolution 117-2021 for Sabina Taj

Dear Councilmember,

As a proud resident of Howard County, who cherishes diversity as our strength, and the reason many move and prefer to live in Howard County, I am writing to share my support for Sabina Taj to the Howard County Library System Board of Trustees. Ms. Taj's experience in education, leadership, and commitment to serving the people of Howard County has been demonstrated through her extensive work in various educational settings. Her commitment to equity helped the Howard County Public School System actualize their policy for educational equity, and codify policies and practices to ensure every student is given the opportunity to attain their goals towards their future. In addition, Ms. Taj's work at the Howard County Community College, and passion for strengthening community bonds will further support the HCLS mission to deliver high-quality education for all. Her experience in working with different community groups, individuals, and students will be valuable to the HCLS third pillar, Instructive & Enlightening Experiences, to enhance and further the library's initiatives. For all of the stated reasons, I encourage the county council to approve Ms. Taj's appointment, I urge you to vote YES on Council Resolution 117-2021.

I could be reached via email, if you need to discuss this further.

Name:

Address:

Sayers, Margery

From: kamran abro <abrokamran@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 1:03 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb;
dyoungmann@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilMail
Subject: Vote YES on Council Resolution 117-2021 for Sabrina Taj

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

Dear Councilmember,

As a proud resident of Howard County, who cherishes diversity as our strength, and the reason many move and prefer to live in Howard County, I am writing to share my support for Sabina Taj to the Howard County Library System Board of Trustees. Ms. Taj's experience in education, leadership, and commitment to serving the people of Howard County has been demonstrated through her extensive work in various educational settings. Her commitment to equity helped the Howard County Public School System actualize their policy for educational equity, and codify policies and practices to ensure every student is given the opportunity to attain their goals towards their future. In addition, Ms. Taj's work at the Howard County Community College, and passion for strengthening community bonds will further support the HCLS mission to deliver high-quality education for all. Her experience in working with different community groups, individuals, and students will be valuable to the HCLS third pillar, Instructive & Enlightening Experiences, to enhance and further the library's initiatives. For all of the stated reasons, I encourage the county council to approve Ms. Taj's appointment, I urge you to vote YES on Council Resolution 117-2021.

I could be reached via email, if you need to discuss this further.

Dr. Kamran Abro
11537 Manorstone Ln
Columbia MD 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Nancy Carlsen <nancy.carlsen@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 12:17 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 support the appointment of Sabina Taj to the Howard County Library Board of Trustees.

Ms. Taj's experience in education, leadership, and commitment to serving the people of Howard County has been demonstrated through her commendable work in various educational settings. Her commitment to equity helped the Howard County Public School System actualize their policy for educational equity, and codify policies and practices to ensure every student is given the opportunity to attain their goals toward their future.

Ms. Taj's work at the Howard County Community College, and passion for strengthening community relationships will further support the HCLS mission to deliver high-quality public education for all. Her intelligence, integrity, and experience in working with different community groups, individuals, and students will be valuable to HCLS.

Frankly, after the unfounded, cruel, and bitter criticism of Ms. Taj that was cowardly taken to a personal level while serving on the Board of Education, she is to be commended for stepping forward to once again serve our community.

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."). I further urge you to discuss with your Council colleagues and reach a majority decision to appoint her to the HCLS Board.

Besides our community being the better for Ms. Taj's appointment, a majority decision will send a message that our elected leadership will not accept or be swayed by fear-baiting reactionaries.

Regards,
Nancy Carlsen
Howard County Resident, D3

Sayers, Margery

From: Talaat E. Shehata <tshehata@umd.edu>
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 11:54 AM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David; CouncilMail
Cc: Talaat E. Shehata
Subject: Vote YES on Council Resolution 117-2021 for Sabina Taj

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

Dear Councilmember,

As a proud resident of Howard County, who cherishes diversity as our strength, and the reason many move and prefer to live in Howard County, I am writing to share my support for Sabina Taj to the Howard County Library System Board of Trustees. Ms. Taj's experience in education, leadership, and commitment to serving the people of Howard County has been demonstrated through her extensive work in various educational settings. Her commitment to equity helped the Howard County Public School System actualize their policy for educational equity, and codify policies and practices to ensure every student is given the opportunity to attain their goals towards their future. In addition, Ms. Taj's work at the Howard County Community College, and passion for strengthening community bonds will further support the HCLS mission to deliver high-quality education for all. Her experience in working with different community groups, individuals, and students will be valuable to the HCLS third pillar, Instructive & Enlightening Experiences, to enhance and further the library's initiatives. For all of the stated reasons, I encourage the county council to approve Ms. Taj's appointment, I urge you to vote YES on Council Resolution 117-2021.

Thank you.

I could be reached via email, if you need to discuss this further.

**Name: Dr. Talaat Shehata, University of Maryland
Address: 7205 Fawn Crossing Dr., Clarksville, MD
Email: tshehata@umd.edu
Phone: 301-633-2520**

CR 117-2021

Sayers, Margery

From: SULTAN ASHRAF <sultan.ashraf@verizon.net>
Sent: Sunday, August 22, 2021 9:18 PM
To: Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David; CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth
Subject: Subject: Vote YES on Council Resolution 117-2021 for Sabina Taj

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

Dear Councilmember,

As a proud resident of Howard County, who cherishes diversity as our strength, and the reason many move and prefer to live in Howard County, I am writing to share my support for Sabina Taj to the Howard County Library System Board of Trustees. Ms. Taj's experience in education, leadership, and commitment to serving the people of Howard County has been demonstrated through her extensive work in various educational settings. Her commitment to equity helped the Howard County Public School System actualize their policy for educational equity, and codify policies and practices to ensure every student is given the opportunity to attain their goals towards their future. In addition, Ms. Taj's work at the Howard County Community College, and passion for strengthening community bonds will further support the HCLS mission to deliver high-quality education for all. Her experience in working with different community groups, individuals, and students will be valuable to the HCLS third pillar, Instructive & Enlightening Experiences, to enhance and further the library's initiatives. For all of the stated reasons, I encourage the county council to approve Ms. Taj's appointment, I urge you to vote YES on Council Resolution 117-2021.

I could be reached via email, if you need to discuss this further.

Name: Sulta Ashraf
Address: 3510 Coventry Court Drive
Ellicott City MD21042

With kindest regards

Sultan Ashraf

Sayers, Margery

From: Uma Krishnan <khoabilling@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 22, 2021 8:38 PM
To: Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David; CouncilMail
Subject: Vote YES on Council Resolution 117-2021 for Sabina Taj

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

Dear Councilmember,

As a proud resident of Howard County, who cherishes diversity as our strength, and the reason many move and prefer to live in Howard County, I am writing to share my support for Sabina Taj to the Howard County Library System Board of Trustees. Ms. Taj's experience in education, leadership, and commitment to serving the people of Howard County has been demonstrated through her extensive work in various educational settings. Her commitment to equity helped the Howard County Public School System actualize their policy for educational equity, and codify policies and practices to ensure every student is given the opportunity to attain their goals towards their future. In addition, Ms. Taj's work at the Howard County Community College, and passion for strengthening community bonds will further support the HCLS mission to deliver high-quality education for all. Her experience in working with different community groups, individuals, and students will be valuable to the HCLS third pillar, Instructive & Enlightening Experiences, to enhance and further the library's initiatives. For all of the stated reasons, I encourage the county council to approve Ms. Taj's appointment, I urge you to vote YES on Council Resolution 117-2021.

I could be reached via email, if you need to discuss this further.

Name: Ravi Anandkrishnan

Address: 10434 Kingsbridge Rd
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Uma Krishnan <uma61@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 22, 2021 8:34 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David;
CouncilMail
Subject: Vote YES on Council Resolution 117-2021 for Sabina Taj

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

Dear Councilmember,

As a proud resident of Howard County, who cherishes diversity as our strength, and the reason many move and prefer to live in Howard County, I am writing to share my support for Sabina Taj to the Howard County Library System Board of Trustees. Ms. Taj's experience in education, leadership, and commitment to serving the people of Howard County has been demonstrated through her extensive work in various educational settings. Her commitment to equity helped the Howard County Public School System actualize their policy for educational equity, and codify policies and practices to ensure every student is given the opportunity to attain their goals towards their future. In addition, Ms. Taj's work at the Howard County Community College, and passion for strengthening community bonds will further support the HCLS mission to deliver high-quality education for all. Her experience in working with different community groups, individuals, and students will be valuable to the HCLS third pillar, Instructive & Enlightening Experiences, to enhance and further the library's initiatives. For all of the stated reasons, I encourage the county council to approve Ms. Taj's appointment, I urge you to vote YES on Council Resolution 117-2021.

I could be reached via email, if you need to discuss this further.

Name: Umadevi Anandakrishnan
Address: 10434 Kingsbridge Rd
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Uma Krishnan <uma61@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 22, 2021 8:29 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Sabina Taj for Howard County Library System Board of Trustees

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

As a proud resident of Howard County, who cherishes diversity as our strength, and the reason many move and prefer to live in Howard County, I am writing to share my support for Sabina Taj to the Howard County Library System Board of Trustees. Ms. Taj's experience in education, leadership, and commitment to serving the people of Howard County has been demonstrated through her extensive work in various educational settings. Her commitment to equity helped the Howard County Public School System actualize their policy for educational equity, and codify policies and practices to ensure every student is given the opportunity to attain their goals towards their future. In addition, Ms. Taj's work at the Howard County Community College, and passion for strengthening community bonds will further support the HCLS mission to deliver high-quality education for all. Her experience in working with different community groups, individuals, and students will be valuable to the HCLS third pillar, Instructive & Enlightening Experiences, to enhance and further the library's initiatives. For all of the stated reasons, I encourage the county council to approve Ms. Taj's appointment, I urge you to vote YES on Council Resolution [117-2021](#).

I could be reached via email, if you need to discuss this further.

Name:

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Steven Clark Cunningham <steven.clark.cunningham@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 22, 2021 5:33 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 sincere support for Ms. Sabina Taj's appointment to the Howard County Library System Board of Trustees.

I have known Ms. Taj for nearly a decade, as a neighbor, a fellow parent, and a recent member of the Board of Education. She has always been a kind, honest, hard-working, caring, and civil member of our HoCo community, and has always strived to truly consider the diverse viewpoints of others in the community, even when they differed from her own.

Ms. Taj is a champion of education, literacy, equity, and community, and has served the people of Howard County, especially our children, with dedication, strength, and kindness. I hope that she may continue to do so in this new role.

Sincerely,

Steven Clark Cunningham, MD, FACS

Surgeon, Children's Book Author, Religion Scholar

StevenClarkCunningham.net

Sayers, Margery

From: Irfan Malik <imalik11@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 22, 2021 3:34 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David; CouncilMail
Subject: Vote YES on Council Resolution 117-2021 for Sabina Taj

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

Dear Councilmember,

As a proud resident of Howard County, who cherishes diversity as our strength, and the reason many move and prefer to live in Howard County, I am writing to share my support for Sabina Taj to the Howard County Library System Board of Trustees. Ms. Taj's experience in education, leadership, and commitment to serving the people of Howard County has been demonstrated through her extensive work in various educational settings. Her commitment to equity helped the Howard County Public School System actualize their policy for educational equity, and codify policies and practices to ensure every student is given the opportunity to attain their goals towards their future. In addition, Ms. Taj's work at the Howard County Community College, and passion for strengthening community bonds will further support the HCLS mission to deliver high-quality education for all. Her experience in working with different community groups, individuals, and students will be valuable to the HCLS third pillar, Instructive & Enlightening Experiences, to enhance and further the library's initiatives. For all of the stated reasons, I encourage the county council to approve Ms. Taj's appointment, I urge you to vote YES on Council Resolution 117-2021.

I could be reached via email, if you need to discuss this further.

Name: Irfan Malik
Address: 3886 Whitebrook Ln

Please wear mask, and practice social distancing.

Sayers, Margery

From: Gorospe, Myriam (NIH/NIA/IRP) [E] <gorospem@grc.nia.nih.gov>
Sent: Sunday, August 22, 2021 12:49 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 most enthusiastic support for the appointment of Ms. Sabina Taj to the Howard County Library System (HCLS) Board of Trustees. I have known Ms. Taj for the past nine years as a neighbor and parent, as our children have attended the same schools in Howard County. Throughout much of this time, I have seen the passion with which Ms. Taj has promoted children's education in a range of leadership roles. She has served the people of Howard County, especially our children, with unparalleled dedication, strength, vision, and kindness. As a Latina in Howard County, I particularly value her commitment to ensuring high-quality education for all in the Howard County community.

As we emerge from a most difficult period of isolation for educators and students, I cannot imagine a better advocate for equity and opportunity for our families. I encourage the county council to approve without delay the appointment of Ms. Sabina Taj to the HCLS Board of Trustees.

Sincerely,

Myriam Gorospe, PhD

Chief, Laboratory of Genetics and Genomics
BRC, National Institute on Aging, NIH
251 Bayview Blvd.
Baltimore, MD 21224, USA
Tel: 410-454-8412
myriam-gorospe@nih.gov



Sayers, Margery

From: M Jose <sumreenj@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 22, 2021 10:29 AM
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,
Moalie Jose

Sayers, Margery

From: Chris Oxenham <chrisoxenham85@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 22, 2021 10:19 AM
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.]

County Council Members,

I am writing to reject the nomination of Sabina Taj to the Library Board of Trustees. Her unethical behavior on the Board of Education should be an automatic disqualifier. Violation of Open Meetings Act rules is unacceptable on any Board. The library system needs non-politically motivated public servants.

I have also spoken with two members of the Rouse Project who mentioned tactics Sabina was using in that organization as well. Her deep ties to prominent County developers is a red flag.

Please consider rejecting this candidate. This is not bringing our community together.

Sincerely,

Chris Oxenham
15261 Bucks Run Dr.
Woodbine, MD 21797

Sayers, Margery

From: Joshua Benson <joshbenson06@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 21, 2021 11:09 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel;
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 activists with extreme views to derail a critical appointment by stoking fear and false outrage against a valued member of our community.

Thank you for your service to the community.
-Josh Benson
Parent, Cimmunity Leader, Resident

Sayers, Margery

From: Jen Hayashi <calamityjen69@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, August 21, 2021 4:41 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David;
CouncilMail
Subject: Please vote against racism and Islamophobia

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

Dear County Council,

Please vote to confirm Sabina Taj's appointment to the library board and Ainy Haider-Shah's appointment to the compensation committee. Both of these women are eminently qualified for these positions, and the disgusting public outcry by a minority of right-wing bigots should not be countenanced by any of you as elected officials who represent the rest of Howard County. History has its eyes on you, and I trust you to do the right thing. Thanks!

Jen Hayashi
she/her/hers
Choose. Love.

Sayers, Margery

From: Pratik Shah <shahpratik08@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 21, 2021 11:02 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 Council members,

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,

Pratik Shah

Burleigh Manor

Sayers, Margery

From: Krupa Shah <pratikrupa@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 21, 2021 10:43 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 Council members,

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,

Krupa Shah

Burleigh Manor

Sayers, Margery

From: Liana Rosenthal <lsrosenthal@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 11:05 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David;
CouncilMail
Subject: Support Appointment of Sabina Taj to Howard County Library System Board of 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 unwavering support of Ms Taj's appointment to the Howard County Library System Board of Trustees. As you know, she has extensive experience in promoting educational opportunities and a strong commitment to serving the people of Howard County. I have also always been impressed at the extent of her research into the many components of an issue and her willingness to discuss all facets of these issues. While serving on the Board of Education, she helped to ensure that the policy for educational equity was actualized and she codified policies and practices that support all of our students. Through her work at Howard Community College, she further supported our Howard County students into adulthood and beyond, encouraging and enriching their education.

As a mom of two sons here in Howard County, I have always enjoyed our visits to the Howard County Library and recognize that it is a vital asset to the community. I know that Ms.Taj has the experience and commitment to continue to ensure the success of the HCLS.

Sincerely,
Liana Rosenthal
Howard County Resident

Sayers, Margery

From: Sarah Baumert <sarah.baumert@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 6:19 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. She and I have had many meaningful conversations over the years I have known her. Although she and I have not always agreed with each other, I have always been impressed by her dedication, thoughtfulness, and ability to critically research issues. I have also been impressed by how hard she advocates for those with an unheard voice. We need people like Ms. Taj in roles where she can continue to advocate for those around her.

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.

I have been very saddened by the nasty and untrue statements that I have seen written about Ms. Taj on social media. The Howard County Library System is too precious to allow a group of activists to derail a critical appointment by stoking fear and false outrage against a valued member of our community.

Thank you,
Sarah Baumert

Sayers, Margery

From: Amrita Madabushi <amrita.madabushi@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 5:48 PM
To: hclsboard@hclibrary.org; CouncilMail
Subject: Nominate a new candidate instead of Sabina Taj

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

Dear Howard County Library Board of Trustees,

Thank you very much for all that you've done and continue to do to maintain and improve our county's library system.

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 nomination, 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. For many detailed examples of this, please review the many testimony letters that have been sent to the County Council in opposition of this appointment, found here:

<https://apps.howardcountymd.gov/olis/LegislationDetail.aspx?LegislationID=12804>

By the evidence provided in many of these testimonies 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 future controversies, distracting political drama, and obvious risks of conflicts of interest to HCLS and its leadership.

I respectfully request and strongly urge you to recommend a new nominee for the open HCLS Board of Trustees position. 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.

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. Please nominate a new candidate for this position that all County Councilmembers can reasonably support when they vote on this appointment on September 8, 2021.

Thank you for your consideration of this request,

Amrita Madabushi

Sayers, Margery

From: Vipin Sahijwani <vsahijwani@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 5:19 PM
To: hclsboard@hclibrary.org; CouncilMail
Subject: Nomination of Ms Sabina Taj for the Trustee Position

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

Dear HCLS Board,

I am writing to express my concern over the nomination of former Board of Education member Sabina Taj to the Howard County Library System Board of Trustees. Ms. Taj has a record of sowing divisiveness during her service at BoE while being utterly unprepared for many board issues. Her fellow board member took issue with her as she referred to people concerned with redistricting as "those people" in a condescending way.

Ms. Taj violated the Open Meetings Act rule by colluding with Ms. Jen Mello over private texts while the board meeting was in session.

I respectfully request and strongly urge you to recommend a new nominee for the open HCLS Board of Trustees position. A nominee that is respected by the community at large and will uphold the high standards of the Howard County Library System. Thank you for all you do for the community.

Thanks and regards, Vipin Sahijwani

5006 Crape Myrtle Ct.
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Jamie Levine <ot.ventures1@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 1:54 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.

Thank you,

Jamie Levine, MS, OTR/L
OT Ventures, LLC
We Play Up Your Abilities!
www.otventures.org

102 117-2021

Sayers, Margery

From: Shanthi Manian <shanthi.manian@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 11:32 AM
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 and committed member of our community.

Thank you,
Shanthi Manian

Sayers, Margery

From: Anjum Khan <anjum_1107@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 12:09 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,
Anjum Khan
A concerned community member

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Zach Koung <zach@koung.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 12:11 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; 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,
Zach Koung
Former HoCo BOE

--

Zach Koung

Student Member of the Board of Education (SMOB)
Howard County Public School System | HCPSS
He/Him/His

 zach@koung.org

 zachkoung.com



Sayers, Margery

From: Jof1 <jof1@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 1:49 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,

As a former Board of Education member for Montgomery County Public Schools, I want to share my strong support for the appointment of former Board of Education member Sabina Taj to the Howard County Library System Board of Trustees.

I got to know her as a colleague and strong, courageous, collaborative advocate for education and best outcomes for all kids. I've been continually impressed with her commitment and effectiveness, even in light of community members who don't support Howard County's vision of inclusiveness and equity.

We need so many more compassionate, sharp, caring and dedicated leaders like Sabina.

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 any community—especially one with the diverse history and outstanding reputation at Howard County's.

Warmly,

Jill

Jill Ortman-Fouse
9419 Wire Ave
Silver Spring, MD 20901

301-379-9339

Sayers, Margery

From: Akil Cole <akilcole22@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 2:53 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,
Akil Cole

Sayers, Margery

From: Ruth Almeida <ruthsimeiajomesdealmeida@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 9:14 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.]

All 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,
Ruth Buckley

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Dan Berland <berlandd@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 12:33 AM
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.

Most importantly, she is highly qualified and highly ethical. To allow the kind of vitriol being heaped upon her by people who disagree with a political stance she has taken during her service to this community to derail her appointment to the library board would encourage the kind of organized political activism that promotes dysfunction and personal destruction, and to discourage the kind of sustained dedication to community engagement that continually improves our county. We cannot be a county where qualified individuals with a willingness to serve our community are unable to do so because of a few loud and angry voices.

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 far-right activists to derail a critical appointment by stoking fear and false outrage against a valued member of our community.

Thank you,
Dan Berland
District 4

Sayers, Margery

From: Tina Horn <tinahorn_cae@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 6:21 AM
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,

Tina Horn
Wilde Lake

CA 117-2021

Sayers, Margery

From: Skalny, Cindy
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 8:50 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Prospective appointment to the Howard County Library System Board of Trustees

From: Dennis Kenez <dennis.kenez@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 8:37 AM
To: Yungmann, David <dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Prospective appointment to the Howard County Library System Board of Trustees

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

Dear Councilman Yungmann,

I have attached a message sent yesterday to the Howard County Library System, urging them to put forth a different candidate to fill the open appointment slot. If, however, they choose to stand firm with their nomination of Sabina Taj, then I urge you to vote no to her appointment for the same reasons as noted.

Respectfully,
Dennis Kenez
6120 Eternal Ocean Place
Clarksville, MD 21029

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Dennis Kenez <dennis.kenez@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Aug 16, 2021 at 1:14 PM
Subject: Prospective appointment to the Howard County Library System Board of Trustees
To: <hclsboard@hclibrary.org>

Dear Howard County Library Board of Trustees,

The Howard County Library System (HCLS) vision is that of a vital component of the county's renowned education system, delivering excellence in education for everyone, advancing the economy and quality of life. Indeed, HCLS is recognized as a national leader among the great public libraries. Rightly so, many residents consider HCLS to be one of the brightest jewels in Howard County's crown. As a Howard County resident since 1998, I heartily concur.

I am writing to express my concern over the 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 nomination, 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.

If the goal of the HCLS Board of Trustees is to preserve and enhance this valuable county asset, then I urge you to put forth a different candidate who possesses the requisite skills and temperament

demanded by this appointment. Surely, the current board can nominate someone who satisfies these requirements without compromising past failures of judgment to follow established policy and rules of governance.

Thank you for your consideration of this request,
Dennis Kenez
HCLS card #2-1267-0112-7517-0

Sayers, Margery

From: Baker, Kevin
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 1:40 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Support for Sabina Taj's appointment to Howard Country Library System Board

For CR118 public record.

From: Kyle Reis <zazoomzimminy@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 15, 2021 10:07 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth <ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Support for Sabina Taj's appointment to Howard Country Library System Board

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

To:
Liz Walsh
Re:
Support for Sabina Taj's appointment to Howard County Library System Board

Dear Ms. Walsh,

I've always loved how Howard County prides itself on the quality of its civic discourse. You see it in the "choose civility" bumper stickers on local cars and the many "Hate Has No Home" signs proudly displayed on front lawns throughout the county. Unfortunately, this pride of civility in recent years has been put to the test by a number of divisive voices intent on tearing down people and institutions no matter the cost. Social media outlets like Facebook embolden people to say things online that they would never dare to say to a person's face, particularly if they knew them or knew how their characterizations fly in the face of the reality of that person.

Sabina Taj is one such person. If one were to come up with a list of qualities you'd want to see in a Howard County Library board member, they'd likely include someone with a long history of civic engagement in the community. A person with a keen intelligence thoughtfully applied. They'd likely look for a kind person, someone who would give the shirt off her back to help a person in need. They'd want someone philanthropically minded with a strong record of charitable giving combined with solid networks in the foundation community. And if this person were also a woman of of color with a perspective on the world well aligned with thousands of people in the community, that would be so much the better. Sabina Taj checks every single box.

Ms. Taj is not only someone I recommend you approve to the Howard County Library Board of Trustees, but that you vote for with both hands held high. Her experience in education,

philanthropy, civic engagement, academia, and so much more make her an ideal candidate for library board service. Her commitment to equity in her brief time on the Board of the Howard County Public School System changed the conversation so that it more intentionally included the voices of those often left out when decisions are being made about their children's education. Ms. Taj has worked at the Community Foundation of Howard County, she's taught at Howard Community College, she's a Leadership Howard County graduate. She's been a champion for the underdog even as those who would silence her regularly attack, this despite her no longer being a public official. Do not allow these individuals to silence voices like Sabina's or you will silence the future voices of those, like her, who seek to advocate for those underrepresented in society.

For these and so many more reasons, I strongly encourage the county council to approve Ms. Taj's appointment to the Howard County Library System Board of Trustees on September 8th. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kyle Reis

Sayers, Margery

From: Haydee Herrera <lolalagrande123@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 2, 2021 6:51 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fwd: Council - Nomination of Sabina Taj for Board of Trustees HCLS

[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 want to express my support for Sabina Taj to become a member of the Board of Trustees of HCLS. She is an extraordinary member of our community, someone who has tirelessly worked to improve the lives of everyone in the county, particularly children. On top of that, her educational background makes her very well equipped to make sure the mission of the Library System continues to be as excellent as it is today.

Best wishes,
Haydee Herrera

Sayers, Margery

From: no-reply@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Monday, August 2, 2021 6:43 PM
To: lolalagrande123@gmail.com
Subject: Council - Nomination of Sabina Taj for Board of Trustees HCLS

First Name: Haydee

Last Name: Herrera

Email: lolalagrande123@gmail.com

Street Address: 4039 Hunt Ave

City: Ellicott City

Subject: Nomination of Sabina Taj for Board of Trustees HCLS

Message: Dear Council Members, I want to express my support for Sabina Taj to become a member of the Board of Trustees of HCLS. She is an extraordinary member of our community, someone who has tirelessly worked to improve the lives of everyone in the county, particularly children. On top of that, her educational background makes her very well equipped to make sure the mission of the Library System continues to be as excellent as it is today. Best wishes, Haydee Herrera

CR 117-2021

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: 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

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

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: Vanessa Rembert <vanessarembert@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 31, 2021 11:37 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 and to ask you to vote no to Council Resolution 117-2021 ("A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Sabina Taj to the Board of Library Trustees."). Ms. Taj may have an impressive professional paper record to support this appointment but looking beyond this, 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/>

unpaid volunteer positions. This organization was "outed" by one of the CA election candidates (Richa Bolton) as being a front company for developers (e.g. The Howard Hughes Corporation) interested in influencing the CA elections and placing CA Director 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/2021/03/23/em-from-the-rouse-project-outlines-their-haters-and-responses-to-the-email-from-those-mentioned-in-howard-county/>

This is just a small sampling of what Ms. Tai has brot

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 N. Taj to this position will bring significant risk of both future controversies & unneeded drama to HCLS and 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 and build what they deem as affordable housing in its place).

I urge you to vote no to Council Resolution 117-2021 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.

Vanessa Rembert

--

Thanks,

Vanessa Rembert

Sayers, Margery

From: Nalini Nina Harry <nHarry127@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 30, 2021 4:30 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Do not appoint Sabina Taj to anything ever in Howard county!!

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

I am starting to wonder if anyone actually listens to the voices of Howard county residents or if this email will get lost with the rest of the concerned citizens emails...

If I had known how corrupt Howard county really was I would have never purchased a million-dollar home in this county. It's too late for me to leave the county now but I am truly disappointed in how voices of concerned citizens are never heard. And if they are heard, no one ever does anything about their concerns.

Here goes another email that may just be a waste....but here's to hoping *someone* in the county wants to do the right thing.

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,

Nalini Harry
1040 Fairlane Rd, Woodbine, MD 21797

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

Sayers, Margery

From: Parncutt, Stephanie <Stephanie.Parncutt@fda.hhs.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 30, 2021 9:44 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 and to ask you to vote no to Council Resolution 117-2021 ("A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Sabina Taj to the Board of Library Trustees."). Ms. Taj may have an impressive professional paper record to support this appointment, but looking beyond this, 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/.../HoCoNU/posts/2544052569152118/>

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 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.

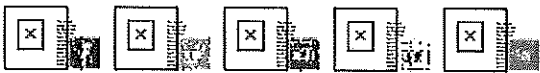
Thank you for your consideration of this request,

Resident of District 5

~~~~~

**Stephanie N. Parncutt, MHA**  
*Senior Regulatory Project Manager*

**Neurology 2 Group**  
**Division of Regulatory Operations for Neuroscience**  
**Office of Regulatory Operations**  
**Center for Drug Evaluation and Research**  
Tel: 301-796-4098  
[Stephanie.Parncutt@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Parncutt@fda.hhs.gov)



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**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Albert Lin <albertlin68@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 29, 2021 11:52 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 and to ask you to vote no to Council Resolution 117-2021 ("A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Sabina Taj to the Board of Library Trustees."). Ms. Taj may have an impressive professional paper record to support this appointment, but looking beyond this, 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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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:

Howard County Neighbors United : \*\*Remember the time when two HCPSS Board of Education members (Jen Mallo and Sabina Taj) held a private text message conversation to discuss redistricting strategy during a public Board meeting\*\* on November 18, 2019





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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: [Email from The Rouse Project outlines their haters and responses to the email from those mentioned in Howard County - Scott Es Blog](#)



## **Email from The Rouse Project outlines their haters and responses to the email from those mentioned in Howard County - Scott Es Blog**

The Rouse Project (an entity that is weighing in on the upcoming Columbia Council races or better known as a position on the Columbia Association Board of Directors) sent out the following email yesterday:  
It's time for a bit of truth-telling in Colu

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 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,

Albert Lin

District 4 Resident and Registered Voter at  
11724 Trotter Crossing Ln  
Clarksville, MD 21029



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Charlene Heinmuller <cheinmuller@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 29, 2021 7:24 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.]

Council Members of Howard County,

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 and to ask you to vote no to Council Resolution 117-2021 ("A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Sabina Taj to the Board of Library Trustees."). Ms. Taj may have an impressive professional paper record to support this appointment, but looking beyond this, 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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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 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,

Charlene Heinmuller  
District 5 14116 Triadelphia Road, Glenelg MD 21737

## Sayers, Margery

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**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

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**From:** Tanja Webber <tanja.webber@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 29, 2021 4:36 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 and to ask you to vote no to Council Resolution 117-2021 ("A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Sabina Taj to the Board of Library Trustees."). Ms. Taj may have an impressive professional paper record to support this appointment, but looking beyond this, 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://www.facebook.com/.../HoCoNU/posts/2676503365907037/>

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

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

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

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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 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,

Tanja Brown Webber

District 1

5312 Tims Ct

Ellicott City, MD 21043

**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:** James Walls <jvwalls4@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 29, 2021 2:33 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Mrs. Taj in Howard County

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

Council Members,

I found myself at a loss when I found out that anyone in Howard County would be considering Mrs. Taj for any government seat in Howard County. As an active resident of Howard County for over 35 years, I must beg you to reconsider her appointment. Her time spent on the Board of Education was a disgrace. She rarely payed attention to what was going on, and had to look to other member to know what way to vote. There were revotes taken because she misunderstood what way she was to vote. She voted against what the member of the community that she was to represent wanted on many occasions. It was clear she had no respect for what the people wanted. This could not have been made more clean when she could not get re-elected. Placing her on a board of Trustees would be a lack of understanding that the people of Howard County DO NOT TRUST her to make the best decisions for our community. I love Howard County because of its forward thinking inclusive nature. Mrs. Taj has not shown to share these values. I can not support any Council member who votes to confirm her possession.

--

Thank you for listening,  
James Walls

Hamond High Boosters President 2018-20

Atholton Elementary School Treasure 2012-14

Howard High  
Class of 87

## 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:** Royalty, Wendy  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 28, 2021 8:38 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Cc:** Baker, Kevin  
**Subject:** Fwd: Vote NO to Sabina Taj & Ainy Haider-Shah Appointments

Please include in the record and the tally.

Also, Mathew Molyett who was listed in opposition, is in D1.

Ty!

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**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

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**From:** Dan Kramer <dan@veterinary-health.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 28, 2021 6:55 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Opposition to Sabina Taj Appointment

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

Dear Howard County Board,

I am writing to vigorously oppose the nomination of Sabina Taj to the Board of Library Trustees. Ms. Taj's previous actions have clearly demonstrated her complete lack of any objectivity when representing the interests of Howard County residents. Her nomination clearly signals political appointments at their lowest denominator and casts serious concerns of a political quid pro quo for such disruptive, myopic and deleterious performance. If you want this body to have any credibility, you will promptly reject this nomination.

Sincerely,  
Dan Kramer  
Ellicott City, MD

**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

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**From:** luo wenbo <luowenbo@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 28, 2021 10:01 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:

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<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 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,

Wenbo Luo  
5728 Whistling Winds Walk  
Clarksville MD

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jung, Deb  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 28, 2021 9:21 AM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: In Opposition to Council Resolution 117-2021

**From:** Kevin Bruening <klbruening@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 11:18 PM  
**To:** Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** In 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.]

Ms Jung,

I urge you to vote NO in the matter of Sabina Taj in her appointment to the Howard County Library System Board of Trustees. Sabina is a divisive figure and has engaged in unfair practices. She is not qualified to hold a position in Howard County government as a Trustee of the Howard County Library System.

To me the biggest infraction is Ms Taj becoming involved in the campaign of one of the candidates for Student Member of the Board. It seems petty and childish to attempt to influence students to vote for one student candidate over another, and even more so for a former member of the Board. Nearly every adult would exercise strict discretion in becoming involved in a student election - but not Sabina Taj. Her lack of discretion in this matter is not the first. The culmination of many public facts about Ms Taj as well as her mediocre performance as a board member should be enough to disqualify her as a nominee for the Board of Trustees.

Additionally, I believe Ms Taj presents a significant conflict of interest as she already sits on a number of other Boards in the county. She does not, for the sake of the county, need to be rewarded with another appointment.

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/HoCoNU/posts/2544052569152118/?\\_cft\\_\\_\[0\]=AZV-uoNVZWtKndXQ20xcOBw3I9LienxVovhNVSFs-j56f5ybuAv\\_mGwke0gHOBSylrbD-eH6fneF8vbROIAj97xxfnAPDE5ZiHYXh4K48u2uK1tTZu51OjmFtjzrF7RYLX3PC\\_uRcbPWvvyuNtb9\\_PmcAFgs7hnW-pMfl7z8SPzRSzg&\\_tn=-UK-R](https://www.facebook.com/groups/HoCoNU/posts/2544052569152118/?_cft__[0]=AZV-uoNVZWtKndXQ20xcOBw3I9LienxVovhNVSFs-j56f5ybuAv_mGwke0gHOBSylrbD-eH6fneF8vbROIAj97xxfnAPDE5ZiHYXh4K48u2uK1tTZu51OjmFtjzrF7RYLX3PC_uRcbPWvvyuNtb9_PmcAFgs7hnW-pMfl7z8SPzRSzg&_tn=-UK-R)

<https://scotteblog.com/.../email-from-the-rouse-project.../>

Sincerely

Kevin L Bruening  
Columbia, Maryland

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jung, Deb  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 28, 2021 9:21 AM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Opposition to Council Resolution 117-2021

**From:** Debbie Bures-Walker <debbiebw@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 11:21 PM  
**To:** Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>  
**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 Member Jung,

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:** Jung, Deb  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 28, 2021 9:12 AM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Support for Sabina Taj to the HCLS Board of Trustees

**From:** Razia Kosi <raziachai@me.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 4:54 PM  
**To:** Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Support for Sabina Taj to the HCLS Board of Trustees

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

Date: 7/27/21

To: Deb Jung

Re: Support for Appointment of Sabina Taj to Howard County Library System Board of Trustees

Dear Ms. Jung,

I am writing to share my support for Sabina Taj to the HCLS Board of Trustees. Ms. Taj's experience in education, leadership, and commitment to serving the people of Howard County has been demonstrated through her extensive work in various educational settings. Her commitment to equity helped the Howard County Public School System actualize their policy for educational equity, and codify policies and practices to ensure every student is given the opportunity to attain their goals towards their future. In addition, Ms. Taj's work at the Howard County Community College, and passion for strengthening community bonds will further support the HCLS mission to deliver high-quality education for all. Her experience in working with different community groups, individuals, and students will be valuable to the HCLS third pillar, Instructive & Enlightening Experiences, to enhance and further the library's initiatives. For all of the stated reasons, I encourage the county council to approve Ms. Taj's appointment to the HCLS Board of Trustees.

Sincerely,

*Razia F. Kosi*

Razia F. Kosi

Howard County Resident



## Sayers, Margery

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**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**

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**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

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** no-reply@howardcountymd.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 28, 2021 8:32 AM  
**To:** fishmansd@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Council - 117-2121

**First Name:** Diane  
**Last Name:** Fishman  
**Email:** [fishmansd@gmail.com](mailto:fishmansd@gmail.com)  
**Street Address:** 9233 Sealed Message Rd  
**City:** Columbia  
**Subject:** 117-2121

**Message:** I have read with interest the heated discussion concerning Sabina Jones. She has an excellent resume and I share many of her values. However, the library system is known for promoting civility and it sounds like Ms. Taj can be very divisive. I would prefer a candidate who has no agenda and works well with others in a collaborative manner. The library system has many important challenges to work through in the next few years. Therefore, I hope you will consider voting against 117-2021. Diane Fishman 9233 Sealed Message Rd. Columbia

CR 117-2021

**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&data=wZ%2FX%2B9pKXVjZDIx6xMJIMbc27eb9DLSxh98o%2BILIEiI%3D&reserved=0>

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

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fgroups%2FHoCoNU%2Fposts%2F2676503365907037%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cmsayers%40howardcountymd.gov%7C184434eb9bd643b358c208d951660543%7C0538130803664bb7a95b95304bd11a58%7C1%7C0%7C637630320913881640%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&data=0HKV3MA%2F5sSK3pkaMzOX9XJpZoeuFZJRwmoeZuK6oyA%3D&reserved=0>

<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&data=Wdr4BWRJZR0s%2BHQPypFRjLc8dnhlKvnq9i6w71SYwyI%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%7C184434eb9bd643b358c208d951660543%7C0538130803664bb7a95b95304bd11a58%7C1%7C0%7C637630320913881640%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikl1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sd=WN4ZCHAtBaN8tBHnl9rcD9MBn4l9KojW4M1osrMvTk%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%7C184434eb9bd643b358c208d951660543%7C0538130803664bb7a95b95304bd11a58%7C1%7C0%7C637630320913881640%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikl1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sd=EljDtIQLENExy5KVKSOrMIN0GrjPBV%2FfRbCGIGxHU%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%2Fscottblog.com%2F...%2Femail-from-the-rouse-project...%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cmsayers%40howardcountymd.gov%7C184434eb9bd643b358c208d951660543%7C0538130803664bb7a95b95304bd11a58%7C1%7C0%7C637630320913881640%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikl1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sd=aHqIwBRktQQG%2BpNQ P6kCpnaygwvPz4hfe%2FTwJNfG%2BYE%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,

Sherry Sullivan  
Michael Knowles

2822 Saddlebred CT  
Glenwood, MD



Sent from my iPad

**Sayers, Margery**

---

**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

---

**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.

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.

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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,

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

[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:

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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%7C68ce4a5428e4c397a3a08d9515b0523%7C0538130803664bb7a95b95304bd11a58%7C1%7C0%7C637630273654942319%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Iik1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=O2ehj9bs3NDRQ4YFjcdw6dtJAG0%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:

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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%7Cc68ce4a5428e4c397a3a08d9515b0523%7C0538130803664bb7a95b95304bd11a58%7C1%7C0%7C637630273654942319%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikk1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=8XIZpRUR0k%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%2Fscottblog.com%2F...%2Femail-from-the-rouse-project...%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cmsayers%40howardcountymd.gov%7Cc68ce4a5428e4c397a3a08d9515b0523%7C0538130803664bb7a95b95304bd11a58%7C1%7C0%7C637630273654942319%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikk1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=A0s%2B4TqI7Kcf9QiSOjCYPAY0lbfJloayRKpwfBXWtAg%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 <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.

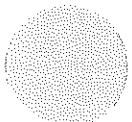
We have become a country of divisiveness and I hope Howard County can rise above that and start to heal as a community, listen to others' perspectives, and have civil debates on issues (not personal attacks when an outcome doesn't go one's way). I strongly believe that both appointments would result 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

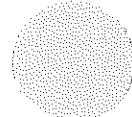


**Ainy Kazmi** @AinyKazmi · 1d

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.

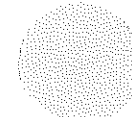
 2       3       13      



**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 whir and fire up excuses about funding to keep them out of the halls of leadership.

Tweet your reply





## Thread

**Ainy Kazmi** @AinyKazmi · 1d

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**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.



**Ainy Kazmi** @AinyKazmi · 1d

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**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.

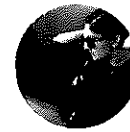
💬 1 ↻ 2 🔗



**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

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**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**

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**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

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**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:**  
<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  
Bhargav Desai

## Sayers, Margery

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**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://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.

## Sayers, Margery

---

**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

---

**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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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,

**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:

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,

Ketul Raol

3264 Pine Orchard Ln

Ellicott City 21042

## Sayers, Margery

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**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.../>

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.

Shrigauri Sudhir  
8075 Locust Mill St  
Ellicott City 21043

## Sayers, Margery

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**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>

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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.

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,  
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/>

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>

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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.../>

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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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



**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Stacy Snell <snelly@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 3:09 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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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%7C293b1901fde140c4d05808d951320178%7C0538130803664bb7a95b95304bd11a58%7C1%7C0%7C637630097489087387%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=meAEXx%2FmaHerEvQxoZpS2i1ERYxt2Xp7mWqCfGc53cc%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%7C293b1901fde140c4d05808d951320178%7C0538130803664bb7a95b95304bd11a58%7C1%7C0%7C637630097489097343%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=NQZ439aw7EDfawH50WcdCC8DUfkL2fk88HsZISDq%2FEI%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%2Fscotteblog.com%2F...%2Femail-from-the-rouse-project...%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cmsayers%40howardcountymd.gov%7C293b1901fde140c4d05808d951320178%7C0538130803664bb7a95b95304bd11a58%7C1%7C0%7C637630097489097343%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=EgEJZo5ZMUd56xPwjpx2i9KZpvcM7gxmUls6Sq%2Fnt%2FU%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.

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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,

Stacy Snell

District 1 / Address 8414 church lane road ellicott city MD 21043

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Megan Benedict <megankbenedict@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 2:05 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Opposition to Council Resolution 117-2021 and the Appointment of Sabina Taj

[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 personally dealt with Ms Taj during our overlapping tenure at our local PTA. My interactions with her are similar to these below - A great deal of division, calling people racists if they disagreed with her, and calling people racists if they did something different than she would have done. Her mode of operation would be to go into a committee meeting, ask for people to consider x,y,z and then provide no help to achieve the goals she wanted others to do. If those goals weren't met, it was because we were racist, not because we were simply unable to meet her, sometimes outlandish, requests. I am happy to provide more details and examples if the Council is so inclined.

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/.../HoCoNU/posts/2544052569152118/>

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.

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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,

Megan Benedict

10009 Whitworth Way

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Surajit Sengupta <surajit@ntechworkforce.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 1:54 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Opposition to Council Resolution 117-2021" (or something similar).

[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,

Surajit Sengupta

[District 5/ 10937 white dahlia drive woodstock MD 21163]

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**Surajit Sengupta**  
President, Co-Founder  
nTech Workforce

**ISO 20000-1:2018 Certified**

**D:** 410-988-3828

**C:** 443-224-7556

**E:** [surajit@ntechworkforce.com](mailto:surajit@ntechworkforce.com)

**W:** [www.ntechworkforce.com](http://www.ntechworkforce.com)



## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** no-reply@howardcountymd.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 1:03 PM  
**To:** greengalmam@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Council - Sabina Taj & the library

**First Name:** M. Anastasia  
**Last Name:** MacDonald  
**Email:** [greengalmam@gmail.com](mailto:greengalmam@gmail.com)  
**Street Address:** 9489 Hickory Limb  
**City:** Columbia  
**Subject:** Sabina Taj & the library

**Message:** Hello, I steer clear of discussions of local politics on Facebook – they are too often contentious and unproductive. But I can't stay silent in the face of the Indian Cultural Association's public letter about Sabina Taj. I am writing as a private citizen, but I work for Clarksville Commons. When an email I sent two years ago is dredged up and twisted as farcical evidence for the character assassination of a friend of mine, I must speak up. Sabina Taj is an ethical, moral person who prioritizes inclusivity and making sure everyone feels welcome. She would be a wonderful addition to our library's leadership. The ICA's overreaction to her suggestions two years ago and this public attack now are uncalled for. If the real aim is the good of Howard County, so much more might've been accomplished by initiating true dialogue. I fully support Sabina Taj's being appointed to the library. Thank you. Anastasia MacDonald

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** RICK CAPINO <tara345@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 1:01 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.]



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** ruchita bagul <rdbagul@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 12:42 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Cc:** Yungmann, David; Jung, Deb; Rigby, Christiana; Jones, Opel; Walsh, Elizabeth  
**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,

Ruchita Bagul

[District 7/4532chews Vineyard, Ellicott City, MD

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Eric Greenberg <ermg78@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 12:30 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Opposition to CR117-2021

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

Council Members:

I am writing to urge you to vote AGAINST resolution 117-2021. The nominee to the Board of Library trustees recently served on the Board of Education in Howard County. However, while in that position she was found in violation of the open meetings act by texting another member during board proceedings (Reference 1). Such actions should not be tolerated in a county that values transparency and good governance. Therefore, please vote against Resolution 117.

Sincerely,

Eric Greenberg  
Columbia, MD

Reference 1: <https://scotteblog.com/2020/03/28/the-howard-county-board-of-education-violated-the-open-meetings-act-when-two-of-its-members-exchanged-electronic-messages-during-a-public-meeting/>

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Urvi Patel <patel.urvi@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 12:27 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Opposition of Sabina Taj nomination

[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/2021/03/23/email-from-the-rouse-project-outlines-their-haters-and-responses-to-the-email-from-those-mentioned-in-howard-county/>

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,

U. Patel

11114 martha Way, Fulton, MD 20759

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Regards, Urvi Patel

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Regards, Urvi Patel

## Sayers, Margery

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

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

Dear Chair Walsh and Council Members,

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,  
Dawn Popp  
Elkridge, D1

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jung, Deb  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 12:08 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Resolution 117-2021

**From:** Eric Greenberg <ermg78@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 26, 2021 9:54 PM  
**To:** Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Resolution 117-2021

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

Council Member Jung:

I am writing to urge you to vote AGAINST resolution 117-2021. The nominee to the Board of Library trustees recently served on the Board of Education in Howard County. However, while in that position she was found in violation of the open meetings act by texting another member during board proceedings (Reference 1). Such actions should not be tolerated in a county that values transparency and good governance. Therefore, please vote against Resolution 117.

Sincerely,

Eric Greenberg  
Columbia, MD

Reference 1: <https://scotteblog.com/2020/03/28/the-howard-county-board-of-education-violated-the-open-meetings-act-when-two-of-its-members-exchanged-electronic-messages-during-a-public-meeting/>

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Jung, Deb  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 12:08 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Opposition to Council Resolution 117-2021

**From:** Steven Keller <steven.keller17@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 1:13 AM  
**To:** Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>  
**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 Ms. Jung,

I hope you are doing well and having a fantastic summer so far! Thank you very much for all that you've done and continue to do to improve Howard County for all who live here.

As a District 4 resident, 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.hoconu.com/blog-20200327-2/>

<https://www.hoconu.com/blog-20191219/>

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.hoconu.com/blog-20210414/>

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/2021/03/23/email-from-the-rouse-project-outlines-their-haters-and-responses-to-the-email-from-those-mentioned-in-howard-county/>



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, violations, 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,

Steven Keller

## Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Councilperson Jung,

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

Jason Booms

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

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

## Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

All honorable Howard County Council people:

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

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

Regards,  
Beth Lawson

## Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

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

Dear Councilwoman Jung,

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

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

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

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

Respectfully,

Kelly Klinefelter Lee  
11810 Snow Patch Way  
Columbia

## Sayers, Margery

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

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

Hello County Council Members,

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

Thank you for your time,

Jessica L. Moreno

Dear Councilman Jones,

July 27, 2021

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

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

Judith Birnbaum  
Elkridge

## Sayers, Margery

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

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

Dear Councilmembers,

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

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

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

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

Respectfully,  
Dr. Khaleda Hasan  
District 3

## Sayers, Margery

---

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

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

Good morning,

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

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

Thank you,  
Jennifer Solpietro

Sent from my iPhone



## Sayers, Margery

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

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

Dear Councilmembers,

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

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Katherine Berland  
D4

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Patti Gonzalez <pattigonzalez1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 8:20 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** CR-117-2021

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I support Sabina Taj for Library Board of Trustees.  
PattiGonzalez

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Council Chair Walsh,

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

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

Thank you,

Matthew Molyett  
443-598-2441

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Marybeth Steil <marybeth.steil@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 26, 2021 3:12 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Please vote NO

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

Dear Council Members:

Please vote AGAINST the following resolutions:

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

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

Sabina Taj is a past member of the BOE and had politicized the non-partisan office of the BOE, like none before. She is also the founder member of the secretive ‘Rouse Project’ a group that put in 100s of Thousands of Dollars into the Village Board elections, which in the past were run with almost a \$0 budget. There is still NOT clarity on the sources of funding on the ‘Rouse Project’ and on it’s mission. Ms Taj has proved beyond a reasonable doubt that she cannot be trusted with any public office, and hence I request that all the council persons to vote against her appointment, to prevent any harm to the Howard County public institutions.

Ms Ainy Haider has been gas lighting members of the community on social media and has been instrumental in provoking local Muslim organizations to rally against the Asian Indian Community to settle scores for issues between India and Pakistan which have no relevance to HoCo. She has been a very divisive force within the community and I therefore request all the council persons to vote against Ms Haider’s appointment.

Please find more unifying, less partisan candidates for these two positions. Our county needs to come together to meet our challenges. Less controversial candidates should be sought.

Thank you  
Marybeth Steil  
South Wind Circle, Columbia  
District 4