

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2021 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 12

Resolution No. 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.

Introduced and read first time July 6, 2021.

By order Michelle R. Harrod
Michelle R. Harrod, Council Administrator

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

By order Michelle R. Harrod
Michelle R. Harrod, Council Administrator

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted , Adopted with amendments , Failed , Withdrawn , by the County Council on Sept 8, 2021.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

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

1 **WHEREAS**, a seven-member Compensation Review Commission is established and is
2 empowered to recommend compensation and allowances to be paid the members of the
3 County Council pursuant to the authority of Section 10-302 of the Local Government
4 Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and Section 202(d) of the Howard County
5 Charter and Title 5, County Council Subtitle 1, Compensation Review Commission of the
6 Howard County Code; and

7
8 **WHEREAS**, in accordance with Section 302(e) of the Howard County Charter, the
9 Compensation Review Commission shall review the County Executive's compensation and
10 allowances and make recommendations to the County Council regarding same.

11
12 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard County,
13 Maryland, this 8 day of Sept, 2021, that the following residents of
14 Howard County are appointed to the Compensation Review Commission:

- 15
16 1. Natasha H. Booms of Columbia.
17 2. Michael Butera of Laurel.
18 3. Karina Fisher of Ellicott City.
19 4. Ainy Haider-Shah of Ellicott City.
20 5. Eric Kelly of Woodbine.
21 6. Kia Payne of Laurel.
22 7. Kathryn Valentine of Columbia.

23
24 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Commission shall elect from its members
25 a chairperson, a vice chairperson and the other officers that it considers appropriate.

26
27 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, not later than December 21, 2021, the
28 Commission shall submit by Resolution to the County Council its recommendations of
29 compensation and allowances for the County Executive and County Council to be elected
30 in November 2022.

31

1 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Commission may recommend an increase
2 or decrease in the compensation and allowances paid to the County Executive and
3 members of the County Council, but the compensation may not be less than that provided
4 in the Howard County Charter.

5
6 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Commission shall hold at least one public
7 hearing, which shall be advertised for two successive weeks in a newspaper of general
8 circulation in Howard County, and notice of all meetings, public hearings, and work
9 sessions of the Commission shall be posted on the County Council bulletin board and
10 website at least two weeks in advance.

11
12 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Commission shall terminate on April 30,
13 2022.

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: 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: K Wilson <kdwilly777@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 21, 2021 1:25 PM
To: CouncilMail; Yungmann, David; Jung, Deb; Rigby, Christiana; Jones, Opel; Walsh, Elizabeth
Subject: Re: 118-2021 Haider Appointment

[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 express concern over the possible appointment of Ainy Haider-Shah to the Compensation Review Commission. I have known of Ms. Shaw through our local school system and find her to be a corrosive and divisive individual. Surely the County Council can do better for itself and the residents of Howard County than to accept this nomination. Please entrust this position to someone who will bring respect, tolerance and ethical leadership to the table.

Sincerely,
Kimberlee Wilson

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 Aliny Haider-Shah who is being considered for a position on the Library's Compensation Review Commission. I don't personally know Aliny Haider-Shah, but she apparently claims to know me. After I won a close election for Dorsey's Search's representative to the CA Board, Ms. Haider-Shah tweeted: "The local liars and assholes started the white supremacy machine but the 'nice white people' and the nice white-adjacent 'model minorities' FUELED IT. Unable to look inside at their own shitty biases, they instead listened to the whispers of the white supremacy machine." I really don't believe that this is an individual with the temperament or character to work for what is widely recognized to be one of the top library systems in the nation. Sincerely, Dick Boulton 4669 Hallowed Stream Ellicott City, MD 21042

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Hello,

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

Annalee Garland

Sayers, Margery

From: Miriam Bell <mtcbell@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 2, 2021 4:19 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CR-117 & CR-118

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

Good afternoon,

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

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

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

Sayers, Margery

From: Lisa Marini <lisavmarini@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 2, 2021 1:35 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support CR-117 and CR-118

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

Dear Councilmembers,

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

Best regards,
Lisa Marini
District 4

Sayers, Margery

From: Amy R Brooks <amyreeneebrooks@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 2, 2021 12:49 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Appointments

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

Greetings,

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

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

I support for CR-117 and CR-118.

Amy Brooks

Sayers, Margery

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

For the record

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

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

Wendy,

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

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

Sincerely,
Jake Burdett, a D1 Constituent

5824 Timberview Drive
Elkridge, MD 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Lindsay Lukas <dakota1956@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, July 30, 2021 12:09 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support for CR-117 and CR-118

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

I support Sabina Taj and Ainy Haider-Shah for their pending appointments.

Lindsay Lukas
Wilde Lake, Columbia

Sayers, Margery

From: Kirstin Nelson <kirstin99@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 30, 2021 12:09 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support for CR-117 and CR-118

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

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

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

Regards,
Kirstin Nelson
410-409-0651

08/18/21

~~08/18/21~~

Sayers, Margery

From: Barb Krupiarz <barbkrap@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 7:00 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Council Resolutions
Attachments: Screenshot_20210426-164851_Twitter.jpg; Screenshot_20210426-171235_Twitter.jpg; 20210713_173338.jpg; Screenshot_20210426-171314_Twitter.jpg; Screenshot_20210426-171344_Twitter.jpg; Screenshot_20210426-171358_Twitter.jpg

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

Dear Council members,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

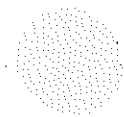
We have become a country of divisiveness and I hope Howard County can rise above that and start to heal as a community, listen to others' perspectives, and have civil debates on issues (not personal attacks when an outcome doesn't go one's way). I strongly believe that both appointments would result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

Thank you for your service and your attention.

Respectfully,

Barb Krupiarz

← Thread

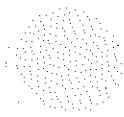


Ainy Kazmi @AinyKazmi · 1d

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

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

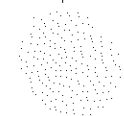
💬 2 ↻ 3 ❤️ 13 🔗



Ainy Kazmi @AinyKazmi · 1d

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

💬 1 ↻ ❤️ 2 🔗



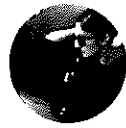
Ainy Kazmi @AinyKazmi · 1d

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

Tweet your reply



← Thread



Ainy Kazmi @AinyKazmi · 1d

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

💬 1 ↻ ❤️ 2 🔗



Ainy Kazmi @AinyKazmi · 1d

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

💬 1 ↻ ❤️ 2 🔗



Ainy Kazmi @AinyKazmi · 1d

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

💬 1 ↻ ❤️ 2 🔗

Tweet your reply



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



Ainy Kazmi @AinyKazmi · 1d

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



Ainy Kazmi @AinyKazmi · 1d

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

← Thread



Ainy Kazmi @AinyKazmi · 1d

"They should run for village board first," the white supremacist machine whispered. "They should show us all their financials," even if that STILL opens them up to attack.

💬 1 ↻ 2 🔗



Ainy Kazmi @AinyKazmi · 1d

I guess handing that defeat to two VERY qualified black candidates must feel good to those folks today.

💬 1 ↻ 2 🔗



Ainy Kazmi @AinyKazmi · 1d

This just shows that even if you do what you can to help defeat white supremacy THROUGH ENTIRELY LEGAL means, the nice whites and 'model minorities' will still listen to the white supremacy machine bc they just want to feel good.

💬 1 ↻ 1 ❤️ 3 🔗



Ainy Kazmi @AinyKazmi · 1d

As we know, justice is hard, and justice can feel uncomfortable.

💬 1 ↻ 3 🔗



Ainy Kazmi

Tweet your reply



← Thread



Ainy Kazmi
@AinyKazmi

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

the end

11:05 AM · 25 Apr 21 · Twitter for iPhone

7 Likes



David Nitkin @dbnitkin · 1d

Replying to @AinyKazmi

Hello @threadreaderapp please unroll



Show replies



Mickey Gomez @mickeygomez · 20h

Replying to @AinyKazmi

This is utterly heartbreaking.



Tweet your reply



← Thread

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

the end

11:05 AM · 25 Apr 21 · Twitter for iPhone

7 Likes



David Nitkin @dbnitkin · 1d

Replying to @AinyKazmi

Hello @threadreaderapp please unroll



Show replies



Mickey Gomez @mickeygomez · 20h

Replying to @AinyKazmi

This is utterly heartbreaking.



Ainy Kazmi @AinyKazmi · 18h

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



Tweet your reply



Sayers, Margery

From: elizabeth moss <eliz.moss@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2021 5:31 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Yes on CR-117 and CR-118

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

I am writing to strongly support a YES vote on the appointment of Sabina Taj and Ainy Haider-Shah to their respective board/commission. Both women have dedicated countless hours to this County and provide an important perspective that will benefit this County. These women are being vilified by some because they asked complicated and difficult questions that will advance this County. Sabina and Ainy have also called individuals out on hypocritical behavior, or when individuals are acting in their self-interest. These same individuals are now leading the campaign to smear them purely as retribution. Sabina and Ainy are intelligent, hard working, dedicated individuals that are only looking to serve this County for the benefit of the citizens. Please vote YES for these women to demonstrate that smear tactics won't work in this County, and to allow Sabina's and Ainy's valuable input to assist the County to continue to advance and improve.

Elizabeth Moss
11097 Swansfield Road
Columbia, MD 21044

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Good afternoon Chair Walsh and Members of the County Council,

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Byron E. Macfarlane
Register of Wills for Howard County
9250 Judicial Way, Suite 1100
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043
Phone: (410) 313-2133
<http://registers.maryland.gov/main/howard.html>

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Regards,

Mark Newgent
9940 Whitworth Way
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Dear County Council Members,

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

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

Thank you,

Susan Defibaugh
7248 Riding Hood Cir, Columbia, MD 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: 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

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

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

Councilmembers Walsh, Jung, Youngmann, Rigby and Jones,

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

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

10:13 [Signal, Wi-Fi, Battery icons]

< [Redacted] ...

34w Like Reply 1

Ainy Haider-Shah
"This is because, as a political force, White female rage has long been better at enforcing patriarchal norms than dismantling them. Why? Quite frankly, White women benefit from the status quo, while change would require burning down that system and building a new one — one where ****they and their children might lose the shared superiority and protection**** they get by being attached to powerful White men."
(Emphasis mine but here is the article: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2020/11/2...> See More

Opinion | White women vote Republican. Get us...
washingtonpost.com

34w Like Reply 1

Write a comment... [Icons]

News Feed Watch Groups News Notifications Menu

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

Regards,

Krista Newgent

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Dear County Council members,

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

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

I urge you to vote yes on their appointments.

Kind regards

Deeba Jafri
Elkridge MD (District 2)

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

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

Let me approach this from a couple angles.

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

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

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

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

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

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

In solidarity.

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Good morning!

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

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

Thank you.

Bob Wagner

Sent from my iPhone

CR 118-2021

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

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: Lisa Tye Wright <lisatyewright@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: 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: 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

President, BBS Consulting
Nonprofits | Foundations | Political Campaigns
www.buffybschwartz.com
bbsconsulting@buffybschwartz.com
buffybschwartz@gmail.com
443-621-4501

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

--

Anjula Batra
anjulab4@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Dear Chair Walsh and Council Members,

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Dawn Popp
Elkridge, D1

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Councilperson Jung,

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

Jason Booms

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

All honorable Howard County Council people:

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

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

Regards,
Beth Lawson

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

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

Dear Councilwoman Jung,

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

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

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

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

Respectfully,

Kelly Klinefelter Lee
11810 Snow Patch Way
Columbia

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Hello County Council Members,

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

Thank you for your time,

Jessica L. Moreno

Dear Councilman Jones,

July 27, 2021

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

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

Judith Birnbaum
Elkridge

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Dear Councilmembers,

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

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

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

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

Respectfully,
Dr. Khaleda Hasan
District 3

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Good morning,

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

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

Thank you,
Jennifer Solpietro

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Dear Councilmembers,

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

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Katherine Berland
D4

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Council Chair Walsh,

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

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

Thank you,

Matthew Molyett
443-598-2441

Sayers, Margery

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