

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2024 Legislative Session

Legislative day # 2

RESOLUTION NO. 17 - 2024

Introduced by: Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Sanjeev Gholap to the Asian American and Pacific Islander Commission.

Introduced and read first time on Feb 5, 2024.

By order Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

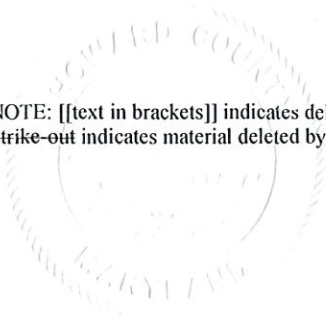
Read for a second time and a public hearing held on Feb 20, 2024.

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This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted , Adopted with amendments ____, Failed ____, Withdrawn ____ by the County Council on Mar 4, 2024.

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.

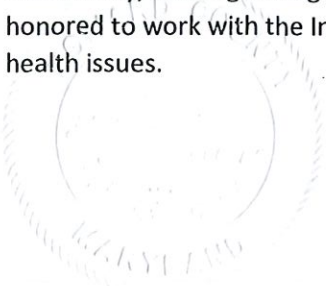


To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Sanjeev Gholap, and I am currently serving as SAP Technical Manager at the Howard County Govt. As a proud Indian American and Howard County resident since 2009, I would love to give back to my community by representing my fellow Asian-American and Pacific Islander neighbors through the AAPI Commission. Howard County has become my family's cherished home thanks to the pillars of respect, diversity, and kindness that course through deeply. We have found neighbors both in and outside of our culture who are excited to learn and take part in our traditions and holidays, and this camaraderie is evident in the schools, workplaces, areas of worship, and community gatherings. As we continue to have a growing population of AAPI individuals, I feel that it is essential that we have a voice at the legislative table, and I would love to help amplify the concerns of my community to make sure Howard County remains welcoming to all.

My wife and I are originally from Mumbai, India, and we immigrated to the United States in 2001. We have two daughters, one at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and another at the University of Maryland, College Park pursuing Computer Science. My family quickly found our home in Maryland in 2005 and have been Ellicott City residents since 2009. I am a Software Engineer by profession and have worked for various Big-5 companies for the last 20 years, even completing my Master of Business Administration (MBA) in 2013 from Loyola University. Outside of work, I have been an active community volunteer since 2005. I was a founding member of the Baltimore Marathi Mandal (BMM), a Non-Profit organization for the Marathi-Indian community. As Secretary, Vice-President, and eventually President (2010-2014), I have helped spearhead a multitude of cultural programs, medical camps, food donation initiatives, and fundraisers for natural disasters. I'm also very active in the Hindu religious community at the Greater Baltimore Temple for the last 15 years since moving to Maryland, where I reside on the Board of Trustees. Through this role, I have helped to hold annual functions for Pongal, Holi, Diwali, Indian Independence Day, Navratri and more holidays; led blood donation drives; held Senior Citizen Community Outings and Yoga Camps; and helped fundraise \$400K to build a new kitchen in the temple. I also run the Scholarship Program for high-school graduates and have served as both volunteer teacher and Director for the Temple's Balvihar Sunday-School program (~100 students annually). I have gotten involved with Howard County's Indian Community Organization for the past 7 years, often engaging with local high schools' National Honor Societies for our volunteer events and charity drives.

It has been my pleasure to work with other Indian American leaders at the national level as a Board of Trustee for the "United Hindu Jain Temple Association" for the last 12 years, coordinating various programs such as securing places of worship, organizing a proper cremation program for Hindu/Indian community, and organizing cultural programs with attendances up to 8,000 people. Finally, I have been honored to work with the Indian Embassy to advocate for those in need of immigration and medical health issues.



Being Employee of Howard County Govt for past three years, I have better understanding of county's work cultures as well as various internal processes. With this background, I will be able to server better to community to bridge the gaps for AAPI community, which I have identified during my last 20 years of social service. Being in county and aware of facts from both side, I will be definitely be able to make difference in community welfare.

If selected for the AAPI Commission, I will reflect on the lived experiences and struggles of my fellow Indian American and South Asian colleagues, and I will work to also hear out my Asian-American neighbors for their own struggles and desires. For example, I know there was a rise in anti-Asian rhetoric and violence after the COVID-19 pandemic, so I would want to work with County Executive Ball to help foster a peaceful community. I understand that this prestigious role comes with great responsibility, and I will do my due diligence to serve my neighbors well.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sanjeev Gholap