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OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY

MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR

MAY - 1 2019

The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 504
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

In accordance with section 2 of the Confirmation Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-142; D.C. Official Code § 1-523.01), and pursuant to section 1043 of the Street Harassment Prevention Act of 2018 (D.C. Law 22-168; D.C. Official Code § 7-2422), I am pleased to nominate the following person:

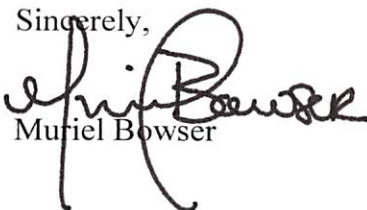
Ms. Darakshan Raja
3000 Connecticut Avenue NW
Apartment G4
Washington, DC 20008
(Ward 3)

for appointment as a religious tolerance member of the Advisory Committee on Street Harassment, for a term to end October 20, 2020.

Enclosed, you will find biographical information detailing the experience of the above-mentioned nominee, together with a proposed resolution to assist the Council during the confirmation process.

I would appreciate the Council's earliest consideration of this nomination for confirmation. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or Steven Walker, Director, Mayor's Office of Talent and Appointments, should the Council require additional information.

Sincerely,


Muriel Bowser



Chairman Phil Mendelson
at the request of the Mayor

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Chairman Phil Mendelson, at the request of the Mayor, introduced the following resolution,
which was referred to the Committee on _____.

To confirm the appointment of Ms. Darakshan Raja to the Advisory Committee on Street
Harassment.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
resolution may be cited as the "Advisory Committee on Street Harassment Darakshan Raja
Confirmation Resolution of 2019".

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia confirms the appointment of:

Ms. Darakshan Raja
3000 Connecticut Avenue NW
Apartment G4
Washington, DC 20005
(Ward 3)

as religious tolerance member of the Advisory Committee on Street Harassment, pursuant to
section 1043 of the Street Harassment Prevention Act of 2018 (D.C. Law 22-168; D.C. Official
Code § 7-2422), for a term to end October 20, 2020.

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia shall transmit a copy of this resolution,
upon its adoption, to the nominee and to the Office of the Mayor.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Darakshan Raja



Professional Work Experience

Co-Director/Founder, Justice For Muslims Collective

Nov. 2017-Present

- Co-lead and build the only base-building and advocacy organization in the greater Washington region led by Muslims whose mission is to dismantle and organize against structural and institutionalized Islamophobia
- Co-manage organizational development and operations, which includes identifying new funding sources, donor stewardship, and building with program officers
- Oversee program design, implementation, and assessments
- Manage the Community Organizing and Empowerment Program and the Muslim Women's Organizing Institute with a focus on tackling gendered Islamophobia
- Co-lead JMC's assessment of Muslim communities' needs in the greater Washington region in order to build a policy platform
- Represent the organization's mission and vision in national and local organizing and advocacy efforts

Interim Executive Director (June 2016- Nov. 2017)/ Helga Herz Organizing Fellow (Sept. 2014- June 2016), Washington Peace Center

- Work with the Board to set the strategic direction of the organization and implement the strategic plan
- Manage fundraising and development. Raised more than 200,000 for the organization.
- Deepen the organization's commitment to racial and immigration justice work through support for local organizing, including developing and sustaining relationships with organizations and communities leading anti-racism work, and making programming and resources more effective, inclusive, and accessible

Helga Organizing Fellow

- Manage a monthly DC Trainers Network program for grassroots organizers to support local campaigns and meet organizing needs
- Provide resources, education, and support for mobilizations, actions and local campaigns
- Oversee the organization's social media and communications
- Organize events and meetings to meet the needs of the local community for political education and anti-racism trainings
- Represent and speak for the organization at local panels, events, and media
- Convene multiracial spaces for anti-racism organizing in DC

Research Associate II, Urban Institute (Justice Policy Center) Sep. 2010-Sep. 2014

- Manage and serve as an analyst for a range of criminal justice evaluations focused on the following areas: crime victimization (i.e., sexual assault, elder abuse, forced marriage, and human trafficking); gang violence; and, correctional violence
- Organize and lead meetings with justice system stakeholders
- Create researcher and practitioner partnerships at the local and national level for projects
- Conduct interviews, focus groups, and administer surveys
- Synthesize and present findings for a broad array of practitioners, researchers, and justice system stakeholders

Selected Projects:

1. Project Director, Evaluating Violence Against Women Act 2005: Access and Payment for Sexual

Assault Medical Forensic Exams (SAFE)

This national study, funded by the National Institute of Justice, Department of Justice, evaluated the implementation of the 2005 Violence against Women Act reauthorization that mandated victims of sexual assault didn't have to report to law enforcement agencies in order to receive a free sexual assault medical forensic exam (SAFE). Prior to the passage of this law, victims were billed for attaining critical medical care and evidence collection or the criminal justice system.

2. Project Director, Evaluating the Comprehensive Approach for Promoting Sexual Safety for Youth Involved in the Texas Juvenile Justice System

This study was sponsored by the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD), and assessed the extent to which TJJD's Comprehensive Approach to Promote Sexual Safety (CAPPSY), a programming intervention funded through the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) requirements, was effective in changing the correctional culture to enhance safety. This study included a pretest and posttest survey of all state facilities within TJJD to measure the effectiveness of a training program focused on staff at decreasing the incidents of violence in the facility and whether staff felt more equipped to intervene in incidents of abuse and violence against youth inside the facility.

Sexual Assault Response Team Advocate, North Central Bronx Hospital (NCBH) August 2009-August 2010

- Addressed the needs of survivors during their stay in the emergency room
- Serve as a supportive intermediary with emergency room staff, police officers, detectives, and family members
- Provide referrals on housing, domestic violence services, counseling and information on legal issues
- Awarded the Adult Honoree Award for the year across all New York City hospitals for providing advocacy to survivors of sexual assault

Education

John Jay College of Criminal Justice
BA/MA in Forensic Psychology (magna cum laude)

September 2006 - 2010

Board Experience

Trustee, **Consumer Health Foundation**

October 2016 - Present

The Consumer Health Foundation is committed to building a region and a nation in which everyone has an equal opportunity to live a healthy and dignified life. We provide grants in the District of Columbia, suburban Maryland and Northern Virginia. Through our programs and partnerships with grantees, community and advocacy organizations, foundations and local governments, we are working to advance the health and well-being of low-income communities and communities of color in the Washington, D.C., region. I currently serve on the Program Committee and Board Governance

Board Member, **South Asian Americans Leading Together** Oct. 2017 - Present

SAALT is a national, non-partisan, non-profit organization that fights for racial justice and advocates for the civil rights of all South Asians in the United States. I currently serve on the fundraising committee

Publications

HEART Women & Girls & Muslim American Women's Policy Forum (2017). Removing Roadblocks: Examining Barriers to Justice & Healing to Build more Victim-Centric Services for Muslim Survivors of Sexual Assault. Chicago, IL

Zweig, J., Newmark, L., Raja, D., & Denver, M. (2014). Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Exams and VAWA 2005: Payment Practices, Successes, and Directions for the Future. Washington, DC: Urban Institute. Prepared for the National Institute of Justice.

Newmark, L, Zweig, J., Raja, D., & Denver, M. (2014). VAWA 2005 and Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Exams Policy Implementation and Impacts. Washington, DC: Urban Institute.

Newmark, L, Zweig, J., Denver, M., & Raja, D. (2014). VAWA 2005 and Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Exams. Kit Storage Issues. Washington, DC: Urban Institute.

Zweig, J., Newmark, L., Raja, D., & Denver, M. (2014). Accessing Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Exams: Victims Face Barriers. Washington, DC: Urban Institute.

Zweig, J., Raja, D. & Yahner, J. (2014). Evaluation of the Comprehensive Approach to Promote Sexual Safety for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System. Final report prepared for the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, TX: U.S. (Unpublished Government Report)

Raja, D. (2013). Breaking the Silence: Addressing Crime Victimization in the Muslim Community. Washington, DC: Safe Nation Collaborative. Published online at <http://www.safenationcollaborative.com/wp-content/uploads/Breaking-the-Silence.pdf>



Executive Office of the Mayor - Office of Talent and Appointments
John A. Wilson Building | 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 600 | Washington, DC 20004

Darakshan Raja



Darakshan Raja is the co-director of Justice For Muslims Collective, a local organization that works to dismantle structural Islamophobia through community defense, coalition-building, and base-building among Muslims.

Ms. Raja previously served as interim executive director of the Washington Peace Center and worked at the Urban Institutes Justice Policy Center as a researcher on a range of criminal justice projects focused on evaluating interventions for victims of sexual assault for state and federal government agencies. She currently serves on the board of South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT), a national organization that fights for racial justice and advocates for the civil rights of all South Asians in the United States.

Ms. Raja serves on the board of Consumer Health Foundation, a leading racial equity funder in the region that advocates for racial equity and racial justice through programs and investments that advance the health and well-being of low-income communities and communities of color.

A Ward 3 resident, Ms. Raja has a Bachelor and Master of Arts in Forensic Psychology from John Jay College of Criminal Justice.



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Executive Office of Mayor Muriel Bowser



Office of the General Counsel to the Mayor

To: Alana Intrieri, Steve Walker
From: Betsy Cavendish
Date: November 20, 2018
Subject: Legal sufficiency review of Resolutions nominating members to the Advisory Committee on Street Harassment

This is to Certify that this office has reviewed the above-referenced legislation and found it to be legally unobjectionable. If you have any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to call me at 202-724-7681.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Elizabeth A. Cavendish'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'E' at the beginning.

Elizabeth Cavendish