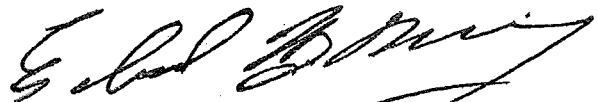




City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: <i>Sonja Basha Christopher</i>		
Board/Commission Name: <i>Community Involvement Commission</i>		Position Title: <i>At-large Member</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appointment OR <input type="checkbox"/> Reappointment		Council Confirmation required? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Appointing Authority: <input type="checkbox"/> Council <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <i>Fill in appointing authority</i>	Date Appointed: <i>4/13/2017</i>	Term of Position: * <i>6/1/2017</i> to <i>5/31/2018</i>
Residential Neighborhood: <i>Pioneer Square</i>	Zip Code: <i>98104</i>	Contact Phone No.: <i>N/A</i>
Background: <p><i>Sonja has over 5 years of experience as a community leader, organizer, and educator specializing in social justice services in marginalized communities. They are an active member & leader of Noor Seattle (a queer Muslim collective), serve on the board for a gender justice organization, and spoke at the Orlando vigil last year. While attending Mills College in Oakland, an all-women school, they successfully advocated for an admissions policy that accepts transgender women and gender-fluid individuals. Sonj currently works as a lead agent with Pacific Northwest Bail Bonding, the only bail agency owned & operated by POC in Washington.</i></p>		
Authorizing Signature (original signature): 		Appointing Signatory: <i>Edward B. Murray</i> Mayor of Seattle

FILED
 CITY OF SEATTLE
 2017 MAY -1 PM 3:55
 CITY CLERK

*Term begin and end date is fixed and tied to the position and not appointment date.

Community Involvement Commission Interest Application (English Version)

#248

COMPLETE

Collector: CIC English (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 8:48:22 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 9:48:00 AM
Time Spent: 00:59:37
IP Address: 64.25.27.224

PAGE 1: Introduction and Applicant Information

01 First Name and Middle Initial

Sonja Basha

02 Last Name (Family Name)

Christopher

03 Contact Information

Email address:

Best phone number:



04 Street Address

I have a permanent address (entered below),

Address



05 Neighborhood Information You can lookup your Council District Number here.

Council District Number

2

Neighborhood Name

South Seattle

06 Employer

Pacific Northwest Bail Bonding

07 What is your primary occupation or expertise?

Facilitator / Community Organizer

08 Are you currently under contract with the City of Seattle?

no

09 Tell us more about yourself.

My identities include but are not limited to being a genderqueer, Muslim, immigrant. I am first generation educated with a Bachelors in Women's, Gender, and Sexualities Studies from Mills College. I am an artist, activist, and community leader. I currently navigate the King County prison system as a lead agent with Pacific Northwest Bail Bonding, the only bail agency owned and operated by People of Color in Washington State. I also work diligently as a facilitator and community organizer advocating for Queer and Trans People of Color and young leadership development. I have traveled locally in the US as well as internationally doing this work.

Community Involvement Commission Interest Application (English Version)

Q10: Please describe why you are interested in serving on the Community Involvement Commission.

In the city of Seattle, it is important to note that "growing demographics" include identities that have existed since the beginning of our communities structure. Identities that have barriers to civic engagement are hungry for representation and community building efforts that do not further marginalize voices. I am committed to building bridges and filling gaps between those who do not have the opportunity to engage in our city's governments and officials who are committed to cultivating equity.

Strategies should be self determined by the communities most vulnerable and impacted by city policy. As someone who rests at various intersections and navigates a multitude of diverse communities, I have been privileged with the opportunity to engage with various voices and perspectives that could work to empower the needs and desires of complex perspectives. Paving a road to equitable engagement can only begin by ensuring that those who hold the most power lend an ear to those most disenfranchised. This can only be done with the safety of liaisons who have the experience of creating brave spaces for both sides. These include various skills that I have developed in my work in grassroots community building and engagement with city officials.

Q11: Please describe the connections you have in your community. These could include faith-based, cultural, ethnic, or interest-based groups (to name a few).

I am an active member and leader in Noor Seattle (A Queer Muslim Collective), I also sit on the board for a gender justice organization as well as a volunteer team working for LGBTQ refugees and assylum seekers. I participate and am active in the queer arts and nightlife, as well as environmental based grassroots organizing. As a sick and differently abled person, I am also integrated in health justice and build community working toward disabilities justice. I work regularly in my professional service a small a bail agent with various disenfranchised families. All of my artist resume, academic community research, and professional experience relates to working in marginalized communities at intersections of faith, gender and sexualities, economic status, and citizenship status.

Q12: Describe one topic you would like to have the Community Involvement Commission address.

Those who are most susceptible to violence are most often invisible to the general public and civic work. This is because our most vulnerable populations sit at the intersection of multiple oppressions. How can the community involvement commission dismantle one identity narratives and begin to integrate in community with a multifaceted lens that takes into consideration the full spectrum of community members?
As a Queer Muslim who is active both politically and on a grassroots level I am able to see others below just the surface or most common assumptions of who they are. Holding multiple identities is a quality that every citizen holds, yet our government tends to engage in a two dimensional way. For example, Trans girls of Color are being pushed to the outskirts of our city and until an intersectional approach that encompasses both gender and race based justice and equity, we will not be able to serve our beloved community adequately.
I would like to see the committee approach sensitive and deeply important topics with the intention to build bridges not just between various groups, but also with individual identities and community intersections.

Page 7: Optional Information

- Q13. My housing situation is: Renter
- Q14. Primary language spoken at home: English
- Q15. Race/Ethnicity (check all that apply): Asian Indian
- Q16. Gender Identity (check all that apply): Different gender identity (write-in) GenderQueer

Page 8: Conclusion

Community Involvement Commission Interest Application (English Version)

**17 Please Agree with the Following Statement *I certify I agree
that the above application information is accurate and
complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that
the information I provided is subject to public records
request unless it is specifically exempt from the
Washington State Public Records Act.**

Community Involvement Commission

Sixteen Members: Pursuant to Ordinance 125192, all members subject to City Council confirmation, one- and two-year terms for the initial round of appointments, two-year terms thereafter:

- 7 City Council-appointed
- 7 Mayor-appointed
- 2 Commission-appointed

Roster:

*D	**G	RD	Position No.	Position Title	Name	Term Begin Date	Term End Date	Term #	Appointed By
3	F	1	1.	District 1 Member	Jeniffer Calleja	6/1/2017	5/31/2018	1	Council
2	F	2	2.	District 2 Member	Thais Marbles	6/1/2017	5/31/2019	1	Council
2	F	3	3.	District 3 Member	Natalie Curtis	6/1/2017	5/31/2018	1	Council
9	F	4	4.	District 4 Member	Alison Turner	6/1/2017	5/31/2019	1	Council
9	M	5	5.	District 5 Member	Mark Mendez	6/1/2017	5/31/2018	1	Council
6	M	6	6.	District 6 Member	Ben Mitchell	6/1/2017	5/31/2019	1	Council
9	F	7	7.	District 7 Member	Patricia Akiyama	6/1/2017	5/31/2018	1	Council
1	F	2	8.	At-Large Member	Hoai (Julie) Pham	6/1/2017	5/31/2019	1	Mayor
6	F	3	9.	At-Large Member	Alex C. Hudson	6/1/2017	5/31/2018	1	Mayor
9	F	1	10.	At-Large Member	Jenna Franklin	6/1/2017	5/31/2019	1	Mayor
2	M	7	11.	At-Large Member	Bereket Kiros	6/1/2017	5/31/2018	1	Mayor
1	F	7	12.	At-Large Member	Emily Kim	6/1/2017	5/31/2019	1	Mayor
5	O	2	13.	At-Large Member	Sonja Basha	6/1/2017	5/31/2018	1	Mayor
			14.	Get Engaged Member	Vacant	9/1/17	8/31/18		Mayor
			15.	At-Large Member	Vacant				Commission
			16.	At-Large Member	Vacant				Commission

SELF-IDENTIFIED DIVERSITY CHART

	(1)		(2)		(3)		(4)		(5)		(6)		(7)		(8)		(9)	
	Men	Women	Transgender	Other	Asian	Black/ African American	Hispanic/ Latino	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Other	Caucasian/ Non- Hispanic	Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern	Multiracial					
Mayor	1	4		1	2	1			1	1			1					1
Council	2	5				2	1			1			3					
Other																		
Total	3	9		1	2	3	1		1	2			4					

Key:

*D List the corresponding *Diversity Chart* number (1 through 9)

**G List *gender*, M = Male, F= Female, T= Transgender, U= Unknown, O= Other

RD Residential Council District number 1 through 7 or N/A

Diversity information is self-identified and is voluntary.