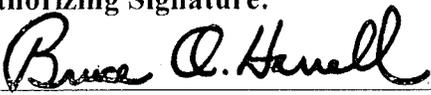


#4

CF 312000

City of Seattle Notice of Appointment

Name: Maha Jahshan		<input type="checkbox"/> Executive Appointment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislative Appointment <input type="checkbox"/> Agency Appointment <input type="checkbox"/> PDA Council <input type="checkbox"/> PDA Constituency
Residential Neighborhood: Kent	Zip Code: 98042	Contact Phone No.: 206-684-4500
Appointed to: Seattle Women's Commission		Date of Appointment:
Authority (Ord., Res.): Ordinance 118392		Term of Office: From: December 28th 2011 To: July 1 st , 2013
Comments: Initial-Appointment Maha Jashan is an organizer and membership coordinator at OneAmerica-a nationally recognized nonprofit organization whose mission is to advance the fundamental principles of democracy and justice at the local, state and national levels through building power in immigrant communities. She serves as the only woman on the board of directors at St. Mary's Coptic Orthodox Church where she works closely in overseeing the social activities and educational opportunities for the youth in the church. Maha is fluent in Arabic and holds a Master's in Arts in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations from the University of Washington where she focused on cross-cultural communications between the United States and the Arab world with a focus on the roles of women in Egyptian cinema.		
Authorizing Signature: 		Councilmember Bruce Harrell Energy, Technology, and Civil Rights Committee

Confirmed by the Following Vote at City Council

In Favor:	Against:	Date:
Attested by:		Title:

FILED
 CITY OF SEATTLE
 2011 DEC 29 PM 3:26
 CITY CLERK



Maha F. Jahshan

[REDACTED]
Kent, WA 98042
USA

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Committee,

It is with great pleasure that I apply to be a board member on the Women's Commission. Being part of a commission that advocates for the economic opportunity for women, race and social justice, and the unique challenges immigrant women face in our community is exhilarating.

In the summer of 1990, my family and I traveled from Kuwait to the United States to visit our relatives. A week before we were supposed to come back the Gulf war started. Because we were Palestinian-Egyptian we were refused entry back into Kuwait. We also were not allowed either in Egypt or Israel. Suddenly, overnight we became refugees seeking political asylum. After ten years of going through the immigration system and paperwork we were finally granted citizenship in the United States. I look back at that time and wish and admire how my mother was the one that carried us through this time as she helped navigate the paperwork.

Growing up in the Seattle area and being exposed to different diverse communities, I understand the importance of diversity and developing clear and concise relationships developing clear and conscientious relationships with all different communities and groups.

As a Coptic American woman, I understand the struggles that face minorities in general but especially women. They are the glue that hold the family together and the community and it is an honor for me to be able to work for their betterment.

One of my talents is communication which has always been a part of my career and studies. I completed my Masters in Arts in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations from the University of Washington. My research focused on cross-cultural communication between the United States and the Arab world. During my research, I especially focused on the roles of women in Egyptian society reflected in cinema and I did this by interviewing a broad sample of population from actors to politicians to local community members.

Being fluent in Arabic and knowledgeable with all different immigration communities, I hope to work with the commission to achieve its goals. Currently, I am an Organizer and Membership Coordinator in OneAmerica, a nationally recognized nonprofit organization whose mission is to advance the fundamental principles of democracy and justice at the local, state and national levels through building power in immigrant communities, in conjunction with key allies. There I work extensively with immigrant communities (especially youth) in the civic engagement. As part of my job, I have organized an Immigrant Day at the capital for 200 people, the membership base has grown from 371 to 687 and in addition, I was part of the team that outreached and put together the April 10th Stand Up for Immigration Reform Rally where 10,000 people came to show support and solidarity. Not only do I have extensive knowledge of how to logistically put together such events, but I'm very comfortable in dealing with people from all walks of life, where my job has given me the outlet and fueled my compassion to help all in achieving equality.

Another fulfilling experience is working with recent immigrants through my role at St. Mary's Coptic Orthodox Church where I serve as the only woman on the board of directors youth liaison and secretarial assistant. Moreover, I work closely in overseeing the social activities and educational opportunities for the youth in the church. The activities I have organized and coordinated are: providing meals to homeless shelters, fundraising for the church, community service, organizing spiritual events and retreats for youth members, providing counseling and tutoring opportunities to youth of all ages. A number of these youth are women, who have immigrant parents or are immigrant themselves and my role is to organize and update their records and implement strategies to check on their acclimation into the country as well as follow and provide support and resources for their social and spiritual progress.

In addition, I led and wrote the Arabic curriculum for the Summer Camp for OneWorld Now, an after-school two-year global leadership program for inner city high school sophomores and juniors that provides them with an opportunity to learn leadership skills and world languages. Also I taught at the prestigious world renowned summer immersion program at Middlebury College in Vermont, for students who show great promise in language ability. My teaching experience provided me with opportunities to deal with people from all walks of life from the Navy Seal to the recently immigrated student with no English background.

While a student, I was the Marketing and Membership Officer of the Society of Professional Journalists Student Chapter (part of an all woman officer team that year). During that time, I was part of the team that helped put on the Western Washington Annual Convention which helped bridge gaps between student journalists and professionals in the field, by organizing an event to help students with their resumes and facilitating a career development opportunity. An external benefit of this position was preparation with successful work with St. Mary's church where I am spearheading a summer club for the immigrant children, which requires maintaining records, daily updates of membership and follow-up with the parents.

I have also volunteered at different non-profit events such as the Arab Festival where I coordinated and implemented the Arab Faces of the Northwest Magazine and display project. The project entailed interviewing various people in the community and assembling a magazine to provide festival-goers with information about the culture and history of the Middle East. There I served as the public relations face of the festival, wrote press releases and spoke with local media personnel.

Currently, I am completing the Project Lead program under the guidance of Louis Mendoza am being fully prepared to work closely with nonprofit agencies to provide direction and help set policy to make a lasting, positive difference in our community.

Again as stated above, I respect and recognize the need of having such an important advisory board to the City of Seattle and am committed to help in its fight for social, racial and economic justice. Being a woman,

Thank you for your time in reading this. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Maha Jahshan

Maha F. Jahshan

Kent, WA 98042
USA

EDUCATION

- **Masters of Arts in Near Eastern Languages and Civilization**, University of Washington, (Dec'05). Research Focuses: Media-relations between the United States and the Middle East and North Africa and women and religious minorities in Middle Eastern and North African cinema and society.
- **Bachelor of Arts in Communications**, University of Washington (UW), (June '03),
- **Bachelor of Arts in Near Eastern Languages and Civilization**, University of Washington, (June '03).

LANGUAGES

- **English** – native, **Arabic** (Egyptian, Levantine, and Gulf dialects) – native, **Modern Standard Arabic** – highest level of proficiency, **French** – written research proficiency, **Hebrew** – written research proficiency, **Spanish** – beginning.

VOLUNTEER & LEADER EXPERIENCE

- *Delegate for Youth and Family Initiative* at the City of Seattle (current)
Nominated Delegate for city of Seattle to help plan for priority issues for city spending and the Families and Education levy.
- *Project Lead Program* at United Way King County of Seattle (current)
Leadership program that helps graduates of the program become fully prepared to work closely with nonprofit agencies to provide direction and help set policy to make a lasting, positive difference in our community.
- *Youth Leader and Fundraising Coordinator* at St. Mary's Coptic Orthodox Church ('00-present)
Coordinates the youth spiritual and social activities under the supervision of the priest and coordinate the food drives, feeding of the homeless, and fundraisers of the church put on by the youth. Also in charge of implementing and organizing the annual summer club which runs throughout all the summer.
- *Child Life Volunteer* at Seattle Children's Hospital ('09-present)
Interact and engage with children of all ages by playing and spending time with them in the inpatient playroom and in patient rooms.
- *Kid Reach Tutor* at World Vision program ('09-present)
Work closely with bi-lingual youth to provide mentor and subject help. Meet once a week on-site and help child with homework, working on different skills and maintain a positive relationship with them.
- *Board of Deacons Youth Member* in St. Mary's Coptic Orthodox Church ('06-present)
Representative of the youth, the secretarial assistant of the board and overseer of all activities committee including fundraising activities, social and community service activities.

- *Marketing and Membership Officer* for the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) University of Washington Chapter ('02-'03). During my term, I helped organize the Western Washington SPJ Annual Convention which helped bridge gaps between student journalists and professionals by helping students with their resumes and facilitating career development.
- *Communications Coordinator* working on various communication projects in the community by contacting local press and media outlets to promote client. Write press releases and all media materials pertaining to the client. Work with client to craft appropriate messaging for communications. Projects included: Editor-in-Chief of Northwest Magazine, official magazine of Middle East Festival ('03), Overseer of Northwest display which highlighted members of the community, Middle East Festival ('03), Communications Coordinator, St. Mary's Coptic Orthodox Egyptian Festival ('01-Present), Director & Playwright, Northwest Egyptian Community ('01-Present).

WORK EXPERIENCE

Organizer & Membership Coordinator, OneAmerica, Seattle University, Seattle WA, (January 10'-Present).

- OneAmerica, formerly Hate Free Zone, is a nationally recognized nonprofit organization whose mission is to advance the fundamental principles of democracy and justice at the local, state and national levels through building power in immigrant communities, in conjunction with key allies.
- Responsibilities: Work extensively with youth in organizing. Develop and implement a membership strategy for OneAmerica, and coordinate different activities designed to promote membership involvement; Organize to expand the existing base of individuals and organizations engaged in building power for immigrants; Recruit and develop grassroots leadership; Staff, build and implement coalition building plans and actions; Mobilize community members and coalition partners to promote turn-out at specific events such as lobby days, rallies, demonstrations.

Program Director & Lecturer, Modern Languages and Literature Department, Seattle University, Seattle WA, (September 07'-Present).

- Program director and developer of Arabic Language sector. Instructor of Beginning Arabic and Intermediate Arabic.
- Responsibilities: Oversees co-curricular and cultural activities of the students. Provide counseling opportunities and creates curriculum for Arabic language program.

Lecturer, Near Eastern Languages and Civilization Department, University of Washington, Seattle WA, (June '03-June '09).

- Beginning Arabic, Intermediate Arabic, Advanced Arabic and Summer Arabic,
- Responsibilities: Created and implemented curriculum in addition to organizing student activities relating to the program by planning field trips and putting together evening activities for students to utilize language and learn about culture.

Program Coordinator and Lecturer, Two-Year Global Leadership Program , One World Now, Seattle WA, (January '07-August 2007).

- Program coordinator for summer language immersion camp and instructor of Beginning Arabic.
- The program is an after-school two-year global leadership program for inner city high school sophomores and juniors that provides them with an opportunity to learn leadership skills and world languages.
- Responsibilities: Created and implemented curriculum for summer language program. Developed and oversaw cultural and co-curricular activities for the students.

*Instructor, Summer Immersion Program, Middlebury College, Middlebury Vermont,
(June '05- August '05),*

- Students were expected to use language exclusively from the outset and all instruction was conducted in the language. Developed curriculum and implemented it. Duties included: writing drills and tests, designing weekly plans and visual aids and preparing outside authentic materials. Also oversaw co-curricular and cultural activities for the students and planned field trips.

*Administrative Assistant, Interactive Communication Grant, University of Washington, Seattle, WA
(September '02-June '03)*

- Assisted director of program with paperwork, set up for meetings, edited grant proposals, typed documents and correspondence, researched, ordered video materials, made phone calls, organized and maintained candidate files; maintained correspondence between committee and candidates; arranged hotel and travel reservations for candidates' visits to Seattle; and independently organized off-site interview logistics (catering, meeting locations, etc.).

*Office Assistant, Near Eastern Languages and Civilization Department, University of Washington,
Seattle, WA, (April '01-August'02)*

- Provided secretarial assistance to administrative assistant and department chair. Assisted in the execution of a nationwide search for instructors; made, organized, and maintained candidate files; maintained correspondence between Search Committee and candidates; arranged hotel and travel reservations for candidates' visits to Seattle; independently organized off-sit interview logistics (catering, meeting locations, etc.).

Excellent References Available upon Request

<i>Total</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>5</i>
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*The Get Engaged youth program Commissioner serves a single term of one year.

**Commissioners whose first appointments are for a term of less than twelve months are eligible to serve for two additional two/year terms.