

## **PRESS RELEASE**

September 18, 2017

### **ESSEX COUNTY FREEHOLDERS HONOR SAHAR A. SHARIAH**



Freeholder At-Large Patricia Sebold, Freeholder Vice President Freeholder At-Large Brendan W. Gill, Freeholder President Britnee N. Timberlake of District 3, and Freeholder Cynthia D. Toro of District 5 (second row, from left to right), present the Board's Commendation to Sahar A. Shariah (center), during the Board's September 13, 2017, meeting at Montclair Town Hall. PHOTO BY GLEN FRIESON

(Montclair, NJ) – During a special presentation at Montclair Town Hall on September 13, 2017, Essex County Freeholder President Britnee N. Timberlake honored Sahar A. Shariah, also known as Sahar – the Creative.

Sahar is an 11-year-old 6<sup>th</sup> grade student who attends Discovery Charter School in Newark. She has been an Honor Roll student since Kindergarten and has managed to remain expressive and creative as a freethinker. Most notably, UNESCO recently recognized her as a Young Leader and C.E.O. at The United Nations headquarters in New York City.

Growing up, Sahar always had a passion for creating things and developed a love for drawing and painting around the age of three. At the age of eight, she created her first work of art, a cereal box she transformed into a 3D version of a floor plan with people and appliances crafted with intricate details and pieces of the cereal box.

Recently, she painted a piece called “We Are Equal” to support gender equality. She has painted a collection of pieces and recently launched her own website where she submits blog posts about inspiration she receives from Art, Poetry, and Music at SaharTheCreative.com. She is also in the process of publishing her first calendar and creating an online store.

President Timberlake presented the Board's Commendation to Sahar, recognizing her for all the accolades she has received at such a young age. She congratulated Sahar, sharing the importance of

encouraging youth, especially youth who have an innate interest in art. Sahar thanked the Board for its support, sharing images of her artwork and future plans of publishing her own book in November entitled *A Kid's Way of Life*, a composition of her expressions of life in short stories and poetry.

Sahar has been invited to read many of her stories and poems at her school's "Writing Nights." In her spare time, she visits Art Museums and attends local poetry cyphers. Her favorite artists include the late Jean-Michel Basquiat and the late poet Brea Nicole Knight, an individual who was like an Aunt to her. Sahar is the daughter of Taaj Williams and Abdul Shariah and has one brother.

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