

Sayers, Margery

From: Robert Miller <robmilfam@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 5, 2019 10:07 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CR134-2019

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Councilmembers,

I am not an expert in drafting resolutions, but I am respectfully submitting a draft based on CR134-2019 worded in what could be viewed as a more direct way, in case it might be helpful in some manner. Meanwhile, I appreciate and support the intent of Dr. Jones' resolution. Thank you for your efforts, and best wishes as you work toward reducing the potential for misunderstandings by homebuyers. (By the way, I would be in favor of a form that is signed at the settlement table stating that school boundary districts can be changed.)

Whereas, Many people shop for homes without investigating policies for school boundary changes, possibly because they were not affected by redistricting in the past, among other reasons, and

Whereas, Many people incorrectly think that the quality of a school can be measured by a score, and

Whereas, School boundary line redistricting can be indicated for various reasons, including the opening of a new school or closing of an existing school, overcrowding and unbalanced school populations, uneven real estate development and sales throughout the county, aging communities, the approaching of a tipping point for not being able to provide equitable opportunities for students, and the need to fill present seats in order to get state funding for new construction, and

Whereas, Many people could be misled by signage and other information stating that a home is in a certain school district, implying that the assignment will be in perpetuity, and

Whereas, Signage is often read by drivers who do not have the opportunity to read details about school redistricting policies while driving.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, this ____ day of _____, 2019, that the County Council calls upon those selling homes in Howard County to refrain from specifying school districts on signage, and that efforts will be made to require a form with information about school boundary line redistricting to be signed at all home settlements.

I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert

Robert W. Miller
Cell: 410-227-8445
Home: 410-992-1933
robmilfam@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Howard County <countyh3@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 9:11 PM
To: Yungmann, David; Jung, Deb; Rigby, Christiana; Jones, Opel; Walsh, Elizabeth; CouncilMail
Subject: CR 134-2019
Attachments: CR 134-2019.pdf

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

October 3, 2019

Howard County Council
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City MD 21043

Dear Council Members:

I am writing in overwhelming opposition to CR 134-2019. I believe CR134-2019 to be a violation of several U.S. laws.

“**WHEREAS**, Targeting home sales to specific groups of people may cause grouping of residents by ranging characteristics, causing an unwanted separation of people living in the various regions of the County”

The above clause is in violation of US law and the constitution, specifically the 5th and 14th amendments. U.S. citizens have a right to life and liberty, but this resolution suggests the council no longer wants individuals to have a fully informed choice in where they reside because it may cause “unwanted separation.” I appreciate the wording change from CR 112-2019, as it improves upon identifying Howard County Residents as segregationists, but it is still claiming segregation.

This resolution is also in violation of the Fair Housing Act, as this resolution is an effort to discriminate against “specific groups of people” for the express purpose of prohibiting the “grouping of residents by ranging characteristics.” The sponsor is unable to identify the specific groups of people or their characteristics because it is unlawful discrimination. Vague language doesn’t make this resolution lawful or improve its chances of success. The vague nature of this resolution suggests malicious intent on behalf of its sponsor.

In addition to being a bold attempt to discriminate against “specific groups of people,” of which “specific groups” are not identified, it is the second attempt by the Howard County Council in the last 60 days to exert influence over the Howard County Board of Education and the Howard County Public School System. The school system’s districts are outside the County Council’s purview.

“**WHEREAS**, Some residents that are in the home-buying process seek to live in an area in which the school district is desirable, either because of concerns about providing a quality education to their children or because of concerns about property values”

Above is another troubling clause, which leads me to believe this is a veiled attempt to target Howard County citizens that have expressed their concerns about violations of their constitutionally protected 5th amendment property rights and protections against undue burden. It would suggest the sponsor is legislating against some of the real estate marketing practices so the council can begin to undo the constitutionally protected property claims of Howard County citizens.

“**WHEREAS**, Identifying schools on the basis of their rankings and using these differences to sell homes creates the false perception that certain areas of the County are better in which to live than others, simply because of the comparisons of performance between schools”

Additionally, perception is not an attribute the council can alter via legislation, as it is a personal assessment. The council also cannot obfuscate facts, such as school performance, via legislation. The U.S. Constitution guarantees people’s ability to self-select where they live and preserves citizens’ abilities to assess the benefits of a property they may be considering for purchase. **This effort illegally discriminates against large swathes of this great county’s citizens.**

To Councilman Opel Jones, specifically, if you feel so strongly about the Howard County Public School System, one would suggest a position on the Board of Education.

CR134-2019 should be struck down because its ideas are damaging to ALL citizens’ rights.

Thank you

Rachel Jackson
Clarksville MD 21029

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Thank you



Rachel Jackson

Clarksville MD 21029

Sayers, Margery

From: Liz Nudo <elizabeth_nudo@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 2:14 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CR134 - I support

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello,

I am writing in to express my support for CR 134. As a person who has been in the mortgage industry for 15 years, I have had the opportunity to develop professional and personal relationships with many Real Estate agents and something that is a common trend among the ones that I would personally recommend to friends and families is that they do NOT use schools as an advertising feature/gimmick for the property nor do they engage in any conversations regarding schools because it is a slippery slope and the conversation can very easily put them in violation of existing rules. The Fair Housing Laws have parameters around what agents can say about a school (for example they cannot use descriptive terminology) and it implicitly states that if schools are mentioned in one listing or signage, schools must be present in all listings. I would be interested to see a prob into developers/agents who are in violation of the listing/signage standard... I am tired of seeing agents and developers walk that thin line when it comes to mentioning schools, particularly in Howard County and I personally do not think that this "ask," is unreasonable, particularly considering the rate at which our county redistricts. I say pass the resolution.

~ Liz Nudo
D4, Maple Lawn (Hillside)
443-310-8339

Please forgive any misspellings or grammatical errors as this message was typed on my iPhone.

Sayers, Margery

From: Rigby, Christiana
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 4:40 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: CR 134

-----Original Message-----

From: Amy Bracciale <amy.bracciale@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 2:03 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: CR 134

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

County Council Member Rigby,

Thank you for your service to our county. I am opposed to Mr. Jones' resolution CR 134. Attempts to control real estate agents and advertisement of real estate is simply not addressing the problems at hand. At this point, I'm left to wonder - WHAT'S NEXT? We pride ourselves on the success of ALL of our schools and our system as a whole. As a Maryland educator, a HCPSS parent, and a product of HCPSS myself, I find it insulting that Mr. Jones is seeking to diminish the fact that HCPSS and the individual schools (all of which have something special and unique to offer homeowners) are considered national leaders in education. Working with HCPSS to meet the needs of ALL students in our county and bridging the gaps - that's what is important and useful! This is all about control, control, control. Let's problem solve instead. Recently it seems to be lost that our diversity is a beautiful thing. Of course we seek to raise the achievement for all students who need additional support, but it is also ok (and frankly amazing) that each of our schools have a unique dynamic and all are so successful! Pushing the "cookie cutter" mentality is so degrading to our diverse communities - our diversity is beautiful because it exists! It exists because Howard County has something to offer for everyone! And it's ok for a family to look for that special something when hunting for a home in which to raise a family. Please do not support this resolution. Thank you.

Amy Crouch

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Walsh, Elizabeth
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 3:02 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: CR 134

-----Original Message-----

From: Amy Bracciale <amy.bracciale@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 2:02 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth <ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: CR 134

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County Council Member Walsh,

Thank you for your service to our county. I am opposed to Mr. Jones' resolution CR 134. Attempts to control real estate agents and advertisement of real estate is simply not addressing the problems at hand. At this point, I'm left to wonder - WHAT'S NEXT? We pride ourselves on the success of ALL of our schools and our system as a whole. As a Maryland educator, a HCPSS parent, and a product of HCPSS myself, I find it insulting that Mr. Jones is seeking to diminish the fact that HCPSS and the individual schools (all of which have something special and unique to offer homeowners) are considered national leaders in education. Working with HCPSS to meet the needs of ALL students in our county and bridging the gaps - that's what is important and useful! This is all about control, control, control. Let's problem solve instead. Recently it seems to be lost that our diversity is a beautiful thing. Of course we seek to raise the achievement for all students who need additional support, but it is also ok (and frankly amazing) that each of our schools have a unique dynamic and all are so successful! Pushing the "cookie cutter" mentality is so degrading to our diverse communities - our diversity is beautiful because it exists! It exists because Howard County has something to offer for everyone! And it's ok for a family to look for that special something when hunting for a home in which to raise a family. Please do not support this resolution. Thank you.

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