

**County Council of Howard County, Maryland**

2019 Legislative Session

Legislative day # 12

**RESOLUTION NO. 134 - 2019**

**Introduced by: Opel Jones**

**A RESOLUTION** calling on those offering homes for sale or rent in Howard County to omit references to schools and school ~~zones~~ districts in certain advertising.

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Introduced and read first time on October 7, 2019.

By order *Diane A. Jones*  
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator to the County Council

Read for a second time and a public hearing held on October 21, 2019.

By order *Diane A. Jones*  
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator to the County Council

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted \_\_, Adopted with amendments X, Failed \_\_, Withdrawn \_\_ by the County Council on November 4, 2019.

Certified by *Diane A. Jones*  
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator to the County Council

1 **WHEREAS**, Howard County is based upon values in which people of great diversity come together to  
2 support and encourage enrich the growth of various cultures thus enriching enhancing  
3 community vibrancy, and

4 **WHEREAS**, ~~Targeting~~ Marketing home sales and/or leases to ~~specific groups of people~~ potential home  
5 buyers and/or leases may cause grouping of residents ~~by ranging characteristics~~, causing an  
6 unwanted separation of people living in the various regions of the County, and

7 **WHEREAS**, The Howard County Public School System prides itself on being able to educate all  
8 children in all schools with more than adequate resources leading to success, and

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

12 **WHEREAS**, Some residents potential buyers and/or renters ~~that are in the home-buying process~~ seek to  
13 live in an area in which the school district is desirable, either because of concerns about  
14 providing a quality education to their children or because of concerns about property values,  
15 and

16 **WHEREAS**, Quality education is a value that Howard County prioritizes in each of its schools, clearly  
17 demonstrated by the County's budget allocations, therefore it is ~~unethical~~ misleading to  
18 advertise home sales in a way that could potentially promote one Howard County Public School  
19 as superior to another, and

20 **WHEREAS**, Howard County Public Schools are currently ranked number one in the State and,  
21 according to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), Howard County Public  
22 School students graduate at higher rates than their peers across Maryland, and

23 **WHEREAS**, The 92 percent graduation rate for the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS)  
24 Class of 2018 exceeds the state average of 87 percent by 5 percentage points and remains the

1 highest among the six Maryland school systems having enrollment of more than 50,000  
2 students.

3 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland this  
4 4th day of November, 2019, that the County Council finds that the practice of  
5 including school attendance district areas when advertising homes is ~~unethical~~ misleading and  
6 calls upon real estate agents, builders and developers, property managers, private homeowners,  
7 lending institutions, and others advertising homes for sale or rent in Howard County to  
8 eliminate immediately all references to schools, ~~school districts, and school attendance~~  
9 ~~boundaries~~ and school districts on directional and promotional signs.

Amendment 1 to Amendment 2 to Council Resolution No. 134-2019

BY: Opel Jones

Legislative Day No. 13

Date: November 4, 2019

Amendment No. 1 to Am. 2

*(This Amendment clarifies the target groups of the sales practices.)*

- 1 On page 1 in line 5, strike "by" and insert "may".
- 2 Also on page 1, in line 8, before the period, insert "and strike "that are in the home-buying
- 3 process".".

ADOPTED November 4, 2019  
FAILED \_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE Opel Jones

Amendment 2 to Council Resolution No. 134-2019

BY: Opel Jones

Legislative Day No. 13

Date: November 4, 2019

Amendment No. 2

*(This Amendment clarifies the activities, goals, and target groups of the sales practices.)*

- 1 On the Title page, in the Purpose Paragraph, after “sale” insert “or rent” and strike “zones” and  
2 substitute “districts”.
- 3 On page 1, in line 2, strike “encourage” and substitute “enrich” and strike “enriching” and  
4 substitute “enhancing”.
- 5 Also on page 1, in line 3, after “sales” insert “and/or leases” and before “by” insert “or renters”.
- 6 Also on page 1, beginning in line 3, strike “by ranging characteristics”.
- 7 Also on page 1, in line 9, strike “areas” and substitute “school districts”.
- 8 Also on page 1, in line 11, strike “residents” and substitute “potential buyers and/or renters”.
- 9 Also on page 1, in line 15, strike “unethical” and substitute “misleading”.
- 10 On page 2, in line 3, strike “attendance” and substitute “district” and strike “unethical” and  
11 substitute “misleading”.
- 12 Also on page 2, in line 4, after “agents” insert “, builders and developers, property managers,  
13 private homeowners, lending institutions,” and after “sale” insert “or rent”.
- 14 Also on page 2, in line 5, strike “, school districts, and school attendance boundaries” and  
15 substitute “and school districts”.

ADOPTED November 4, 2019 as amended  
FAILED  
SIGNATURE Opel A. Jones

Amendment 1 to Council Resolution No. 134-2019

BY: Opel Jones

Legislative Day No. 13

Date: November 4, 2019

Amendment No. 1

*(This Amendment clarifies the activities and target groups of the sales practices.)*

- 1 On page 1, in line 3, strike "Targeting" and substitute "Marketing" and in the same line strike  
2 "specific groups of people" and substitute "potential home buyers".

ADOPTED November 4, 2019

FAILED

SIGNATURE

Opel Jones

R

Amendment 1 to Amendment 2 to Council Resolution No. 134-2019

BY: Opel Jones

Legislative Day No. 13

Date: November 4, 2019

Amendment No. 1 to Am. 2

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BY: Opel Jones

Legislative Day No. 13

Date: November 4, 2019

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Amendment 2 to Council Resolution No. 134-2019

BY: Opel Jones

Legislative Day No. 13

Date: November 4, 2019

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- 15 substitute “and school districts”.

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** JOHN SMITH <jdsmith51@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 22, 2019 4:48 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Testimony in favor of CR134-2019  
**Attachments:** I support CR 134 redline.docx

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

Council Members,

I am attaching my testimony in favor of passing CR 134-2019. I attended the Monday night hearing, but when it became apparent I would have to wait four hours, I gave it to somebody at the table up front. I am sending it to you now in case it never made it to you. Thanks.

JD Smith

Testimony in support of CR134-2019 - October 21, 2019

The idea of **redlining** in real estate refers to the practice of defining specific neighborhoods or areas on a map as more or less desirable to live. Areas defined by a red line, or designated in red, were considered to be less desirable. In 1977 redlining in real estate was found to be **discriminatory**. I believe the advertising of a school zone in promotional materials in order to steer potential home buyers to specific school zones is not only unethical, it could be illegal.

The practice of including school attendance areas when publicly advertising homes for sale improperly discriminates against both seller and buyer. It discriminates against sellers of property in neighborhoods with lower ranked schools by deflating a property's value, and it discriminates against buyers in higher ranked school areas by inflating the cost of housing to them. Furthermore, it is misleading, as redistricting can occur at any time.

Another consequence of this practice is that promoting one school zone over another creates an "us versus them" dynamic and becomes a self-fulfilling prophesy, thereby contributing to divisiveness in a community. Purposely steering higher income families to specific school zones and away from others segregates schools by socioeconomic status and deprives all students the important life skill of interacting with and learning from others whose life experiences may be different from their own.

CR134 applies specifically to directional signs and promotional materials. These materials and signs are public proclamations that create a first impression that Howard County is not the inclusive and welcoming place it is meant to be. First impressions are important. Please pass CR134.

Respectfully submitted,

JD Smith

7425 Swan Point Way,

Columbia, MD 21045

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 22, 2019 1:31 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Cc:** Harris, Michael; Bailey, Najee  
**Subject:** FW: Council Resolution 134-2019 and CR 112

Margery,

Please see testimony received in opposition to Council Resolution 134-2019.

Thank you.

**From:** Peter F. Chew <pfchew@prospera-us.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 17, 2019 10:04 AM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Cc:** Yungmann, David <dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov>; Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>; Walsh, Elizabeth <ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov>; Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Council Resolution 134-2019 and CR 112

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

Mr. Jones,

You have gone too far with this hijacking of the redistricting plan and CR112. Now you are trying to overstep your authority and responsibility with this illegal and illegitimate resolution you are introducing to restrict the notification of housing districts for home sales.

What are you afraid of? Please listen to my testimony in the October 14<sup>th</sup> BOE Hearing on the proposed redistricting plan by the Superintendent. I have attached a copy of my testimony if you care to read.

Mr. Jones, what you know is true and want to somehow illegally change, is that in America, whether we like it or not, housing prices are demand driven by schools and school districts. Parents that understand that education is one of the important keys to success in life seek out the best performing schools and school districts for their families. This is not driven by racism or by a desire to be separated from specific groups of people. Rather, it is purely driven by a desire to be around other families that understand this importance of education and are willing to invest their money, their time and even work commutes. It is driven by desire to ensure their children are surrounded by other children whose parents have the same goals and priorities. These children do homework, sports, music, boy & girl scouts after school, and as with my children, often have their "free play" curtailed to focus on their education.

Yes, most of us have been blessed and have more means than those in your district. But this is not because it was given to us, but because our parents and our own desire for a better life have given us the ambition, the strength and the courage to make the sacrifices for our families.

In 2009, my wife (Chinese American with a PhD in Chemistry) and I moved from Baltimore City to Prince Georges County because we could not afford a home in the Centennial or River Hill school districts that we desired. We had a plan that we would start a family, work hard and save our money so we could move to Howard County in 5 years when the children would be ready for school. In 2011, we made a decision to start our own consulting business...my daughter was 10 months old, 3 days prior, we found out my wife was pregnant with our son....we had less than \$7,000.00 in our

checking and savings account, my wife had quit her job in the Fall of 2009 to focus on starting our family and we were spending more money each month than we were making with my salary.

I often worked 7 days a week, both days and nights. We saved our money. We did not take vacations. Yes, we were blessed as opportunities came with the business and in 2015 we bought our house in the River Hill school district. But almost immediately after we moved in, our business took a severe downturn. Through 2016, we went into debt, not making enough money most months to pay our bills. We considered selling our house, but chose to borrow money to stay because we knew it would be best for our kids. Finally, and slowly, in 2017, we started to turn things around with the business....but it is a constant effort.

I am white, my wife is not. She is also a minority, Asian....I think you forget that there are other minorities than just African Americans / Blacks. We are not privileged and I assure you, no one has given us anything. I had to pay for my own college as my parents had 4 children and struggled to pay their bills most months.

We paid a premium for our house because it is in the River Hill District. I wish I did not have to do that, but this is America. If you want to increase your own home value, have the Council and the Superintendent focus on providing additional resources to schools and students in need that live in the underperforming schools. Do not play politics with our children and try to swap them around to different schools.

As an elected official, stop giving lip service to problems...stop these ridiculous snake oil cures for the issues our children face. Do your job, even when it is difficult...or get another job.

Council Resolution 134-2019 –Introduced by Opel Jones -A RESOLUTION calling on those offering homes for sale in Howard County to omit references to schools and school zones in certain advertising.

Peter Chew  
Vice President



(410) 591 – 6309 O  
(410) 598 – 3583 C

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Lisa May <lisavm78@vt.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 21, 2019 2:02 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** HCAR Comments on CR-134  
**Attachments:** HCAR Comments on CR 134.pdf

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

Good afternoon,

Attached you will find comments from the Howard County Association of REALTORS on CR 134, which will be heard before the Council this evening.

If you have any questions about our comments or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Lisa May  
HCAR



Main 410 715 1437  
Fax 410-715-1489  
Web www.hcar.org

October 21, 2019

The Honorable Christiana Mercer Rigby  
Chair, Howard County Council  
George Howard Building  
3430 Court House Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

RE: CR-134, references to schools and school zones in certain advertising

Chairperson Mercer Rigby and Members of the Council,

On behalf of the Howard County Association of REALTORS® (HCAR), I write in support of omitting references to school district boundaries on real estate signage.

As REALTORS®, our national Code of Ethics obligates us to be truthful in our advertising and to avoid marketing which may mislead both our clients and members of the public. While merely listing a school boundary on a real estate sign does not itself constitute a breach of our Code or current statutes, nor does it indicate any ill-intent on the part of the agent, it does have the potential to confuse the public on the permanency of those boundary designations. This is particularly true at a time when the County is actively considering a significant redistricting plan for its public schools.

For this reason, HCAR supports the call to remove boundary information from real estate signage, both on properties for sale and on those for lease.

We thank Dr. Jones and his staff for their outreach to HCAR on this issue. REALTORS® will continue to provide our assistance on amendments to CR-134 which clarify its intent and to expand its provisions to cover all residential properties marketed to the public.

Sincerely,

Dan Lampieri, President  
Howard County Association of REALTORS®

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jung, Deb  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 17, 2019 2:33 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: CR134

Deb Jung  
Councilmember, District 4  
Howard County Council  
3430 Court House Dr., Ellicott City, MD 21043  
410-313-2001

Sign-up for my District Update here.

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

**From:** Amy Bracciale <amy.bracciale@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 2, 2019 2:03 PM  
**To:** Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** CR134

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

County Council Member Jung,

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

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**From:** Jung, Deb  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 17, 2019 2:32 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Council Resolution 134-2019 and CR 112

Deb Jung  
Councilmember, District 4  
Howard County Council  
3430 Court House Dr., Ellicott City, MD 21043  
410-313-2001

Sign-up for my District Update [here](#).

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**Sent:** Thursday, October 17, 2019 10:04 AM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Cc:** Yungmann, David <dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov>; Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>; Walsh, Elizabeth <ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov>; Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>  
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Peter Chew  
Vice President



(410) 591 – 6309 O  
(410) 598 – 3583 C

**Sayers, Margery**

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**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](mailto:robmilfam@gmail.com)

**Sayers, Margery**

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**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 5<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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

Rachel Jackson  
Clarksville MD 21029

October 3, 2019

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

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The above clause is in violation of US law and the constitution, specifically the 5<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

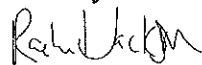
“**WHEREAS**, Identifying schools on the basis of their rankings and using these differences to sell homes creates the false perception that certain areas of the County are better in which to live than others, simply because of the comparisons of performance between schools”

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

## Sayers, Margery

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**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

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**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

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

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.

Amy Crouch

Sent from my iPhone

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** no-reply@howardcountymd.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 2, 2019 2:00 PM  
**To:** amy.bracciale@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Council - CR 134

**First Name:** Amy  
**Last Name:** Crouch  
**Email:** [amy.bracciale@gmail.com](mailto:amy.bracciale@gmail.com)  
**Street Address:** 10400 Springtwig Court  
**City:** Woodstock  
**Subject:** CR 134

**Message:** County Council Members, 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 problem 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. Amy Crouch

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** no-reply@howardcountymd.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 2, 2019 1:52 PM  
**To:** amy.bracciale@gmail.com  
**Subject:** District 2 - CR 134

**First Name:** Amy  
**Last Name:** Crouch  
**Email:** [amy.bracciale@gmail.com](mailto:amy.bracciale@gmail.com)  
**Street Address:** 10400 Springtwig Court  
**City:** Woodstock  
**Subject:** CR 134

**Message:** Mr. Jones, Thank you for your service to our county. I am opposed to CR 134. Attempts to control real estate agents and advertisement of real estate is simply not addressing the problem at hand. We pride ourselves on the success of all of our schools and our system as a whole. As an educator, a parent, and a product of HCPSS, I am insulted that you are seeking to diminish the fact that HCPSS and the individual schools 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. Amy Crouch

Brian England  
11915 Gold Needle Way, Columbia Md 21044

CR134-2019 – A RESOLUTION calling on those offering homes for sale in Howard County to omit references to schools and school zones in certain advertising

I really appreciate the goal of this resolution and I request that you all support it.

The spread off misleading information about Howard County schools has in the past been by neighbors and by some real estate agents but now the source is from the real estate industry in general with their links to sites like Great Schools Dot org.

The data provided by these sites can be helpful to a professional like a principal but in the wrong hands it can be used to enforce stereotypes and be misinterpreted in other ways.

Great Schools Dot Org has comments that show how they justify their "Race" category..

For example: "Big differences may suggest that some student groups are not getting the support they need to succeed".

It sounds very nice if that's how the data is going to be used.

But how is the layperson supposed use data about "Race" an evil construct from the 17th century to evaluate our local schools?

From my experience in buying 3 homes in Columbia the spread of negative views about local schools came up and was repeated by new neighbors who acted on it and some even paid for their children to go to private schools.

A generation later the same happened when my daughter moved to Oakland Mills! Her husband heard negative comments about Talbot Springs Elementary School and said I think we should move before our children are old enough to go to school.

Well they did move but only down the street!

They love their neighborhood and they love their neighborhood school and don't want their son redistricted from Talbot Springs Elementary School.

Thank you, please support this resolution.

<https://www.greatschools.org>

Testimony in support of CR134-2019 - October 21, 2019

The idea of **redlining** in real estate refers to the practice of defining specific neighborhoods or areas on a map as more or less desirable to live. Areas defined by a red line, or designated in red, were considered to be less desirable. In 1977 redlining in real estate was found to be **discriminatory**. I believe the advertising of a school zone in promotional materials in order to steer potential home buyers to specific school zones is not only unethical, it could be illegal.

The practice of including school attendance areas when publicly advertising homes for sale improperly discriminates against both seller and buyer. It discriminates against sellers of property in neighborhoods with lower ranked schools by deflating a property's value, and it discriminates against buyers in higher ranked school areas by inflating the cost of housing to them. Furthermore, it is misleading, as redistricting can occur at any time.

Another consequence of this practice is that promoting one school zone over another creates an "us versus them" dynamic and becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy, thereby contributing to divisiveness in a community. Purposely steering higher income families to specific school zones and away from others segregates schools by socioeconomic status and deprives all students the important life skill of interacting with and learning from others whose life experiences may be different from their own.

CR134 applies specifically to directional signs and promotional materials. These materials and signs are public proclamations that create a first impression that Howard County is not the inclusive and welcoming place it is meant to be. First impressions are important. Please pass CR134.

Respectfully submitted,

JD Smith

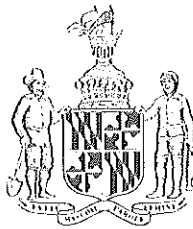
7425 Swan Point Way,

Columbia, MD 21045

ERIC EBERSOLE  
Legislative District 12  
Baltimore and Howard Counties

Ways and Means Committee

Chair  
Finance Resources Subcommittee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 305  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3328 · 301-858-3328  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3328  
Eric.Ebersole@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**In support of CR134-2019 - Real Estate Signs - School Information**

October 21, 2019

Chair Rigby, Vice Chair Jones, and Members of the Howard County Council:

My name is Eric Ebersole and I serve in the Maryland House of Delegates representing District 12. I am pleased to offer testimony today in support of CR134-2019. I would like to thank Councilmember Opel Jones for sponsoring this resolution.

Before I was first elected in 2014, I was a public school teacher here in Howard County for over 30 years. I taught math at Wilde Lake High School for over 20 years, and then both Reservoir and Marriot's Ridge High Schools when they first opened. I have spent my entire teaching career in this County and I know just how good each school here is.

Advertising homes for sale as located in specific school districts can be misleading. The School Board can redistrict whenever it needs to, but buyers may see this sort of advertising as an indication of a perpetual assignment. Those making an investment need to be protected. It is important to help ensure that buyers have a clear and honest picture about a purchase of this magnitude.

In addition, this sort of advertising is also dangerous because it creates and/or promulgates the damaging and, in my opinion from my years of teaching here, false premise that one school is better than another.

Many selling homes adhere to a policy on prohibiting this sort of advertising, but not all. This resolution, then, is worthy of your support. And, in fact, today I announced that I will introduce Howard County Delegation Bill 02-20, which will, in a manner similar to the suggestion of the resolution, prohibit the identification of a specific school assignment in any advertising for real estate or new residential construction in Howard County.

I am pleased to offer my strong support of this resolution, both in my testimony and by introducing legislation. I urge members of the County Council to join me in my support of this commonsense action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eric D. Ebersole".

Delegate Eric Ebersole

Planning Board Testimony: 10/3/2019

Good evening, my name is Dan Lubeley, Acting Director of Capital Planning and Construction. Before you, this evening is the Board of Education's proposed FY 2021 capital budget, FY 2022-2026 capital improvement program, FY 2021-2026 long-range systemic renovation projects and FY 2021-2030 long-range master plan.

I am here to give a brief overview of the proposal, highlighting several Board amendments to the Superintendent's proposed budget. The Superintendent presented his budget to the Board on September 10, 2019, and the Board amended the proposed budget on September 19, 2019.

The Board proposed budget for FY 2021 totals \$99.101 million and the total FY 2022-2026 CIP request is \$408.827 million. The FY 2021-2026 Long-Range Systemic Master Plan is a total of \$145.383 million and the FY 2021-2030 Long-Range Master Plan is \$781 million.

The FY 2021 Board proposed budget additions to the superintendent's proposed budget includes \$15.129 million for the Talbot Springs Elementary School Replacement project and \$27.955 million for the Hammond High School Renovation and Addition project.

The FY 2021-2026 Capital Improvement Program includes budget requests that support

- Construction of New High School #13, scheduled for opening in September 2023; (CD approved 9/19/19)
- Construction of the Talbot Springs replacement school, scheduled for opening in September 2022; (DD to Board of Ed 11/7/19)
- Construction of Hammond HS renovation/addition, scheduled for final completion in September 2023; (CD to Board of Ed 11/21/19)
- Planning and construction of New Elementary School #43, scheduled to open in September 2027;
- Planning and construction of Dunloggin MS Renovation and Addition, scheduled to be completed in September 2028;
- Relocatable classrooms;
- Site acquisition and Technology;
- Multiple systemic renovations and modernizations that include projects for HVAC, Roofs, exterior windows and doors, and emergency reserve funding. (details are listed on budget page #3);
- Thank you, and we are here to answer any questions.