

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Julia McCready <divajackson@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 5, 2020 2:28 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** CR142

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

Dear members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to you today to support CR142, the legislation which will create a Racial Equity Task Force in Howard County.

The issue of addressing the long history of racial inequity in our country has truly become the most pressing issue of our time. Generations of injustice continue to play out nationally and locally. We are all responsible for making our communities more fair, safe, healthy, and promising for those whose value has too long denied by our culture.

I commend the Council for addressing in this issue. You are in good company. The Howard County School System has recently formulated new language to fully articulate their policy on equity. The Howard County Library System outlines their commitment to equity in their most recent issue of *Source*.

These words from Library President and CEO Tonya Aikens could not be more clear:



It is heartening to learn that the Howard County Library System is one of 160 libraries nationwide that have shown a strong commitment to ending structural racism. With our school system and our library showing such unequivocal leadership, I feel strongly that the County Council has a clear path to undertaking this important work as well.

As you consider your vote to establish a Racial Equity Task Force, I ask you to ponder Ms. Aikens' words:

**We must be ever cognizant that precious lives make up the statistics on that list. Precious lives mistreated, disciplined more harshly than their White counterparts, denied opportunity, and unnecessarily cut short.**

You are in a position to honor those precious lives by committing to begin the work so long overdue. Our county cannot be fully what we want it to be if we do not address our responsibilities to all our residents.

Please vote to support this bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Julia A McCready  
5745 Thunder Hill Road  
Columbia, Maryland  
21045



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** deebajafri <deebajafri@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 5, 2020 2:38 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** CR142

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

Dear County Council members,

I am writing in support of CR142. I hadn't planned on it but seeing the comments on HCPD page yesterday made me realize that even a first step like this may be opposed.

Count me as a full supporter of what you wish to achieve Councilman Jones and Councilwoman Rigby.

Yours sincerely

Deeba

Deeba Jafri  
Elkridge, MD.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Gelwicks, Colette  
**Sent:** Monday, October 5, 2020 8:34 AM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Support for CB 142-2020  
**Attachments:** Support Statement - Final.pdf

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**From:** Peter Engel <pengel@househoward.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 4, 2020 3:12 PM  
**To:** Jones, Diane <dijones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Cc:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>; Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>; Deb Jung <debjung@verizon.net>; Walsh, Elizabeth <ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov>; Yungmann, David <dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov>; Elizabeth Homan <beth.homan@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Support for CB 142-2020

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

Diane:

Please find attached a statement of support for Council Bill 142-2020. Thank you.

Peter Engel  
Executive Director  
Howard County Housing Commission



## **Council Bill 142-2020 Support**

The Howard County Housing Commission is in strong support of the CB 142-2020 and the beliefs that it represents. Working on the front lines of affordable housing, Commission board members and staff see some of the impacts of racial discrimination every day.

Housing practices have been one of the primary tools for racial discrimination for over 100 years. Private and public actors have used housing to intentionally segregate the country. They have also been involved in numerous practices that have had an unintentional disparate impact on different communities. These practices have had long term effects that have not been fully remedied in the years since the Fair Housing Act was passed in 1964 and amended in 1968. From racial and religious covenants that were put into place by private parties and enforced by local governments, to the systematic red-lining of the early Federal Housing Administration during the depression and for years after, through the intentional segregation of public housing as practiced by both the federal government and local housing authorities, to large-lot, exclusionary zoning, housing policy has been at the forefront of racism.

Other racist housing policies include block busting, denying credit to segregated communities, and large infrastructure projects such as highways that shattered the fabric of these already segregated communities. Now fully cut off and isolated, disenfranchised people of color did not have a chance for employment, quality housing, or homeownership.

The impact of this discrimination goes far beyond housing itself. Because public schools are neighborhood based, segregated housing means segregated schools. Today, public schools in America are more segregated than at any time since the Brown vs. Board of Education decision. And it's getting worse.

Because housing has been such a big part of the problem it needs to be a big part of the solution. Housing can help desegregate the schools without the need for additional transportation. Housing can level the wealth gap, providing better economic opportunities for people who have been historically left out. Housing can bring us together as neighbors, reducing misconceptions and allowing us to enjoy the multicultural society that we have always been. And housing can ensure that everyone has the chance to take full advantage of all that Howard County has to offer.

We are at a very unusual point in our history – one at which we are being called upon to thoughtfully examine our past in order to create a more perfect future for all of us. CB 142-2020 will continue the work that the County has begun by establishing the venue for the County to begin that self-examination. It calls not only for a look back, but for a look forward as well, creating the road map for County we want to be. Many of us came to Howard County because of the aspirations that Columbia originally embodied. While these goals may not have been embraced by everyone in the County at the time, they have become much of our identity. This is the moment to look closely at our laws, policies, and practices to see how we measure up against our aspirations and to make the changes that are necessary to follow their direction.

The Housing Commission supports CB 142-2020 and will be proud to participate in the task force it creates.



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Karen Randall <karenrandall1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 4, 2020 8:30 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Vote for Racial Equity in Howard County!

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

Dear Council Chair Jung,

I am writing today to express my strong support for CR142, legislation to create Howard County's first Racial Equity Task Force. As a resident of Howard County, I know that there is work we must do locally to address racial disparities and inequities in our community.

This task force will provide a strong foundation for that work and bring our county closer to the vision of justice and equity that we strive for. We cannot afford to wait – I urge you to pass CR142 with funding for a facilitator and vote YES for racial equity in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Karen Randall

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Sabina Taj <sabinataj@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 4, 2020 7:24 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Racial Justice Task Force

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

Dear Council-members,

Our country and county cannot look away from the many racial inequities presenting themselves in health disparities, education disparities, the unprecedented wealth gap, lack of opportunities, and many other ways.

It is incumbent upon us to examine and change some of these in our lifetime. I implore you to support the Racial Justice Task Force.

Warmly,  
Sabina

Sent from my iPhone



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Linda Ferrara <lferrara@me.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 4, 2020 5:58 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Racial equity task force

[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 writing this in support of CR142, legislation to create Howard County's first Racial Equity Task Force. I have lived in Howard County since 1984. I am a teacher in the HCPSS. I have listened to the well intentions of Columbia's and Howard Country's government and school officials for years. More needs to be addressed. More needs to be done. I think Howard County is long overdue for this task force.

It is most unfortunate (to say the very least) that the recent violent crimes as the result of police brutality, along with the current national political climate that supports and promotes such actions, is what it has taken for our government to finally consider taking a more active, official stance on disparities in our society, our community. It is time to not just talk, but to take action to correct the wrongs, prevent more pain and sorrow and iniquities, and do what is right for the citizens of Howard Country.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Linda Ferrara  
8754 Sage Brush Way  
Columbia MD 21045

Sent from my iPhone

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Zikora Akanegbu <zakanegbu@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 4, 2020 3:41 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Written Testimony in support of: CR142

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

Written Testimony in support of: Council Resolution 142-2020: Establishing a Racial Equity Task Force for Howard County

October 4, 2020

Dear Honorable Councilmembers,

Hello, my name is Zikora Akanegbu. I am writing today to express my strong support for CR142, legislation to create Howard County's first Racial Equity Task Force. As a resident of Howard County, I know that there is work we must do locally to address racial disparities and inequities in our community. This task force will provide a strong foundation for that work and bring our county closer to the vision of justice and equity that we strive for.

Establishing racial equity will take foundational reform and is why the Task Force is inclusive of representatives from diverse backgrounds and a multiplicity of perspectives to ensure fair, equal representation.

There are structures of racism that have created grave disparities in Howard County's social systems and structures, including but not limited to: access to housing, health outcomes, educational attainment, and systematic oppression and police brutality. How will we handle these contentious situations? Not very well if CR142 is not passed. We cannot afford to wait – I urge you to pass CR142 with funding for a facilitator and vote YES for racial equity in Howard County.

As someone who has both experienced and studied the effects of marginalization, I believe it is important to learn about the past and give each other grace in the present as we work in unity toward a future of racial equity and justice.

In closing, I respectfully urge the County Council to support this very important legislation so that the people of Howard County can feel safe and heard.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Zikora Akanegbu

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Isabella Battish <lbattish@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 3, 2020 9:25 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Vote for Racial Equity in Howard County!

[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 writing today to express my strong support for CR142, legislation to create Howard County's first Racial Equity Task Force. As a resident of Howard County, I know that there is work we must do locally to address racial disparities and inequities in our community.

This task force will provide a strong foundation for that work and bring our county closer to the vision of justice and equity that we strive for. We cannot afford to wait – I urge you to pass CR142 with funding for a facilitator and vote YES for racial equity in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Isabella Battish  
She/Her/Hers  
Sent from my iPhone

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Candace Dodson-Reed <cdodreed@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 4, 2020 12:07 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Please vote in favor of CR142-2020

[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 writing today to express my strong support for CR142, legislation to create Howard County's first Racial Equity Task Force. As a resident of District 1 in Howard County, I know that there is work we must do locally to address racial disparities and inequities in our community.

As I mentioned in my testimony, police brutality and the killing of Black people has shaken many of us to our core. It's trauma. And, yet, I think some of us can agree that the issues in our country as it relates to race and culture started 400 years ago and permeates our society. It's not new. The issues, these challenges extend beyond the brutality that's regularly visible through cell phone footage. We must do more to address disparities in healthcare, education, economic mobility, housing, environmental considerations, etc. This bill starts to address how we correct these issues and it can create a structure to offer specific recommendations for consideration.

Let's look for the opportunities and work together on solutions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Candace Dodson-Reed  
[www.candacedodsonreed.com](http://www.candacedodsonreed.com)

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Ann DeLacy <anndelacy1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 4, 2020 11:46 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Vote for Racial Equity in Howard County!

[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 writing today to express my strong support for CR142, legislation to create Howard County's first Racial Equity Task Force. As a resident of Howard County, I know that there is work we must do locally to address racial disparities and inequities in our community.

This task force will provide a strong foundation for that work and bring our county closer to the vision of justice and equity that we strive for. We cannot afford to wait – I urge you to pass CR142 with funding for a facilitator and vote YES for racial equity in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ann De Lacy

Sent from my iPad



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Wayne Davis <wayne.davis103@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 4, 2020 11:01 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Vote YES for Racial Equity in Howard County!

[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 writing today to express my strong support for CR142, legislation to create Howard County's first Racial Equity Task Force. As a resident of Howard County, I know that there is work we must do locally to address racial disparities and inequities in our community.

This task force will provide a strong foundation for that work and bring our county closer to the vision of justice and equity that we strive for. We cannot afford to wait – I urge you to pass CR142 with funding for a facilitator and vote YES for racial equity in Howard County.

A deep look at racial equity is needed in Howard County - in housing, economic opportunities, and our school system. Howard County was an extremely racist County when it was formed and it continued to support segregation, racial division, and inequity for the next almost 150 years. We must not continue to turn a blind eye to County policies and programs that perpetuate this ongoing problem.

We need to understand and recognize the history of racial inequity in Howard County so you can understand how it started and continued. Supporting token efforts here and there to make ourselves feel good is not enough. A Task Force is needed to look at these current policies and programs to see what can be done to reduce racial and economic inequity in our County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Wayne Davis  
9731 Early Spring Way  
Columbia, MD 21046

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Broderick Young <broderickyoung@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 4, 2020 10:55 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** CR 142-2020

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

Good morning,

I would like to express my support of CR 142 - 2020. Equity for people of all races should be important to all. Our community and country will never achieve it's full potential if we aren't committed to equity for all.

Thank you,  
Broderick Young - Howard County Resident

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Charles M. Koplik <cmkoplik@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 2, 2020 9:17 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Vote for Racial Equity in Howard County!

[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 writing today to express my strong support for CR142, legislation to create Howard County's first Racial Equity Task Force. As a member of Temple Isaiah, the Howard County JCRC, and the board of the Howard County Jewish Federation, I know that there is work we must do locally to address racial disparities and inequities in our community.

This task force will provide a strong foundation for that work and bring our county closer to the vision of justice and equity that we strive for. We cannot afford to wait – I urge you to pass CR142 with funding for a facilitator and vote YES for racial equity in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Katie DiSalvo-Thronson <kdisalvo@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 2, 2020 7:55 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Please vote for CR142

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

Dear Councilmembers, especially my representative, Ms. Jung,

I write to express my strong support for CR142, and the creation of Howard County's first Racial Equity Task Force.

There are equity issues to be addressed locally. Examining them carefully and transparently through this Task Force is necessary, and is something I view as a basic function of good government. I will be watching how the council and my representative vote on this issue, and then follow up on task force recommendations over time.

I strongly urge you to support CR142

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,  
Katie DiSalvo-Thronson  
11888 Blue February Way, Columbia 21044

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** PATRICE NETUS <pnetus@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 2, 2020 12:19 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Racial Equity Task Force (Council Resolution 142-2020)

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

To The Howard County Council

Greetings,

I am writing to inform you of my support of the work to improve racial equity in the Howard Co. community. I support the establishment of the Racial Equity Task Force (Council Resolution 142-2020).

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Patrice Netus  
10730 Bridlerein Terr  
Columbia, MD 21044  
410-978-4185

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Stephanie Shane <stephanie.shane@hclibrary.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 1, 2020 12:35 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Written testimony from Tonya Aikens  
**Attachments:** CC142-2020 testimony-oct2020.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 is written testimony from Tonya Aikens for CC142-2020.

Kindest Regards,  
Stephanie

**Stephanie M. Shane** | Executive Assistant  
Howard County Library System | 9411 Frederick Road | Ellicott City, MD 21042  
410.313.7772 office

**Contactless pickup begins at all Howard County Library System branches on Monday, June 29. [Details.](#)**

[2019 Five Star Library](#) | 2013 Library of the Year | Listen to our award-winning [HiJinx](#) podcast, and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Flickr](#), [YouTube](#), [Instagram](#).



**HOWARD COUNTY  
LIBRARY SYSTEM**  
Public Education for All

**Bill No: CR-142-2020**

**Title: A resolution creating a Racial Equity Task Force to study racial inequities and disparities in Howard County and recommend legislative actions to close racial disparities in our community.**

**Position: SUPPORT**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Resolution 142-2020 to create a Racial Equity Task Force.

In this unique time of our nation's history, the disparities in our systems have been laid bare. According to the CDC, "Long-standing systemic health and social inequities have put many people from racial and ethnic minority groups at increased risk of getting sick and dying from COVID-19... Inequities in the social determinants of health, such as poverty and healthcare access, affecting these groups are interrelated and influence a wide range of health and quality-of-life outcomes and risks." The pandemic and its broader economic and health consequences are disproportionately impacting Black Americans. In fact, we are facing multiple simultaneous pandemics – COVID-19, economic crisis, educational inequities, and racial injustices – borne primarily by communities of color.

Frustrations rooted in centuries of structural racism and trauma have erupted time after time, decade after decade, as persons of color, especially Black people, suffer due to racism, injustices and systemic inequities in housing policies, health care, education, policing and the criminal justice system and employment.

I am grateful to all people in our community who are eager to make changes to our unjust systems – from the student activists who organized the peaceful march in Columbia and continue to push for change, to the organizations and groups who are invested in changing policies to better serve all, and Dr. Jones and Ms. Rigby for advocating for legislative actions. At Howard County Library System, we are committed to education that aids in the dismantling of unjust systems and creating a more equitable and just society for all people. We are working internally and externally to educate ourselves and others and, ultimately, to act.

Because the time to act is now. This work is a journey that cannot be delayed.

Desmond Tutu, Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town and Nobel Peace Laureate once said, "If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality."

I implore you not to be neutral. The cost for neutrality is simply too high. It's incalculable. I invite you to take the deep pain felt in our community and use it to fuel positive change.

Respectfully,

Tonya Aikens  
President & CEO  
Howard County Library System