

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Colleen D. Morris <Colleen\_Morris@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 13, 2015 1:37 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** I oppose the appointment of Susan Garber to the Planning Board

Dear Members of the County Council,

As a Howard County resident, I strongly oppose the appointment of Susan Garber to the Planning Board.

Ms. Garber wrote an article last year stating "facts" such as:

"The average Howard county educator's salary is \$70,000"

"The cost to taxpayers is actually 30 percent higher due to a generous benefit package"

"School system employees get fully reimbursed for college credits"

The truth is:

1. Looking at the "average" salary independently gives you incomplete data. One should look at the median and obtain the scattergrams in order to get a complete picture before commenting. Teachers have to get to step 14 before making \$70,000 and many teachers are well below that level.
2. The Board's portion of benefits costs between \$6,000- \$13,000 (from individual to family). 30% of \$70,000 would be \$21,000.
3. Employees are reimbursed \$300 per credit for graduate credits and \$155 for undergraduate credits (up to a limited number of credits for both). This amount has never fully reimbursed the cost of graduate credits which can run up to \$800 per credit.

I bring these discrepancies up because appointing someone that doesn't check their facts is of concern to me. I respectfully request that you veto the appointment of anyone that makes up, and propagates, information for their own purposes.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Colleen Morris

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