

From: [Mavis Ellis](#)
To: [Danielle Lueking](#)
Subject: [External] Fwd: Desegregation Resolution and Press Release
Date: Wednesday, August 21, 2019 9:48:22 AM
Attachments: [image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Facchine, Felix** <ffacchine@howardcountymd.gov>
Date: Tue, Aug 13, 2019 at 1:09 PM
Subject: RE: Desegregation Resolution and Press Release
To: Mavis Ellis <[mavisellis@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:mavisellis@[REDACTED])>
Cc: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>

Thank you, Mavis. That is perfect – we will be sending the press release out later this afternoon.

Enjoy your travels!

Felix Facchine

District Aide, District 3

Councilwoman Christiana Mercer Rigby

Howard County Council

3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043

ffacchine@howardcountymd.gov

O: 410.313.3108

M: 443-945-7202



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From: Mavis Ellis <mavisellis@<redacted>>
Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2019 12:54 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Re: Desegregation Resolution and Press Release

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

So here is my quote.

As Chair of the Howard County Board of Education, capable of casting only one vote, I support this resolution that focuses on the socioeconomic and racial desegregation of Howard County Public Schools. Many have called for equity, and it's the Board of Education's hard decisions that will make equity happen for all students in Howard County.

Hope this is ok.

Mavis

On Tuesday, August 13, 2019, Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov> wrote:

Thank you, Mavis.

Would you be interested in sending us a quote for the press release by 1pm EST today? We are planning on sending it out this afternoon, if possible.

Thank you!

Felix Facchine

District Aide, District 3

Councilwoman Christiana Mercer Rigby

Howard County Council

[3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043](#)

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From: Mavis Ellis <mavisellis@<redacted>>
Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2019 9:57 AM
To: Facchine, Felix <ffacchine@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Re: Desegregation Resolution and Press Release

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

Good Morning,

So sorry I missed this yesterday. I am out of the country and unable to retrieve email. Every thing looks fantastic.

Mavis

On Monday, August 12, 2019, Facchine, Felix <ffacchine@howardcountymd.gov> wrote:

Hi Mavis,

I hope you are well! I have attached our desegregation resolution and press release to this

email. If you are interested in offering a quote for the press release, could you please send it to us by COB today?

Thank you, and feel free to reach out with any questions!

Thanks,

Felix Facchine

District Aide, District 3

Councilwoman Christiana Mercer Rigby

Howard County Council

[3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043](#)

ffacchine@howardcountymd.gov

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From: [Facchine, Felix](#)
To: [Mavis Ellis](#); [Kirsten Coombs](#); [Vicky Cutroneo](#); [Christina Delmont-Small](#); [Jennifer Mallo](#); [Sabina Taj](#); [Chao Wu](#); [Student Board Member](#); [BoE Email](#); [Michael Martirano](#)
Cc: [Jones, Opel](#); [Jung, Deb](#); [Rigby, Christiana](#)
Subject: [External] Howard County Council Integration Plan Resolution
Date: Tuesday, August 20, 2019 4:15:47 PM
Attachments: [image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[CR - CMR - School Desegregation - v11 CMR GK OJ DJ Felix - TW.PDF](#)

Dear Chairperson Ellis, Vice-Chairperson Coombs, Members of the Board of Education, and Superintendent Martirano,

Please find attached the Integration Plan Resolution that Councilmembers Mercer Rigby, Jones, and Jung intend to pre-file this Friday for September introduction. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to our office.

Sincerely,

Felix Facchine

District Aide, District 3

Councilwoman Christiana Mercer Rigby
Howard County Council
3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043
ffacchine@howardcountymd.gov

O: 410.313.3108

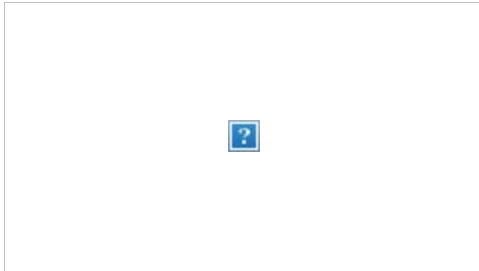
M: 443-945-7202



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From: [Beth Stolte](#)
To: [Beth Stolte](#); [Rigby, Christiana](#)
Cc: councilmail@howardcountymd.gov; [BoE Email](#)
Subject: [External] Re: Desegregation
Date: Thursday, August 15, 2019 9:13:44 AM

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/maryland/howard/cng-ho-council-calls-for-integration-plan-0822-20190815-j7m4vob3yzb65pqge26eianz4y-story.html?fbclid=IwAROCCpJ9DjJDLehnQV-sfhAR3qR6c-ULtmMNg4ixZObZp9d0zr39oSy-O4>



Howard council members: Balancing FARMs students, school capacity could 'improve education outcome'

In a joint news release Tuesday, Council members Christiana Mercer Rigby, Opel Jones and Deb Jung announced they are introducing a resolution next month asking for the school system to create a county-wide integration plan to desegregate schools.

www.baltimoresun.com

Beth Stolte

From: Beth Stolte <elizabeth.stolte@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 15, 2019 9:11 AM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: councilmail@howardcountymd.gov <councilmail@howardcountymd.gov>; [BoE Email](mailto:boe@hcpss.org) <boe@hcpss.org>
Subject: Desegregation

Councilperson Rigby,

Thank you for bringing to light the segregation of Howard County schools. When looking at the demographics for schools east of 29 the disparity is clear. The neighborhoods of Owen Brown and Oakland Mills specifically are deeply segregated from the rest of the county. To someone not involved in the redistricting process, it looks as if FARMs students are concentrated in certain areas to maximize the number of Title 1 schools and therefore federal money. Also, looking at where FARMs students reside shows a segregation in the county itself. For years so called affordable housing has been allowed to be built in these same

neighborhoods under the guise of caring about low income families. If the CC, former and current, cared about low income families they'd stop allowing building in these areas. They'd provide incentives for building of affordable housing in places west of 29. Ellicott City, Gleneg, West Friendship. Other districts besides your district, my district, district 3. It is disingenuous to put all the onus on the board of education and superintendent, past and present. This County Council has come out in support of more building in these areas. More students to fill school slots that don't exist, further crowding these schools.

I posted the following comments on a Facebook post about this issue. The article in from post is below. The first is a question - are the demographics of the schools listed in this article reflective of the surrounding neighborhood? Meaning draw 2 mile radius around the school. If it is reflective of the school's demo then so be it. Kids shouldn't have to be bused across the county for "quotas". The second is that the County Council is responsible for this as well. The places with affordable housing are concentrated in these same neighborhoods. Current laws allow for more affordable housing to be built in these same neighborhoods. Speaking out against that is portrayed by the Council Council as being against poor people. If the County Council wants the schools to be desegregated, then they need to desegregate the county. The County Executive, as a former long term County Council member, is just as guilty for this segregation as the former board of education members and superintendents.

The County Council should look at the demographics of these neighborhoods. Look at the FARMs numbers for new affordable housing built in the last 10 years. What does that say about where new housing should be built?

My family lives in district 3. My [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

in the fall. We love our area. We are looking to move in the spring and want to stay with [REDACTED] is the ideal neighborhood for us. It's probably one of the most walkable areas in the county. We want our sons to be able to leave the house and walk places like the corner store, the [REDACTED] But we also can't ignore the gerrymandering of the school attendance areas. We love the east side. It's so diverse and we are all better for it. I wouldn't want to live in the west where it's much more homogenous.

Concentrating FARMs students in areas like Owen Brown and Oakland Mills only makes the problems these kids face worse. Allowing more and more development in these areas strains the schools in these areas and makes it impossible to desegregate. Everyone needs to work together to change this. The leaders we've voted for need to be leaders. Stand up to classism and racism when presented under the guise of not moving students to a "low ranked school". Stand up to developers and say "no, you can't build here anymore". Make the tough decisions. It's what we've elected you to do.

Thanks for your time.

Beth Stolte

From: [Howard County Council](#)
To: [BoE Email](#)
Subject: [External] Councilmembers Mercer Rigby, Jones, and Jung Call on Howard County Public School System to Develop Integration Plan
Date: Tuesday, August 13, 2019 4:19:12 PM



Media Contact:
Felix Facchine
ffacchine@howardcountymd.gov
(410) 313-2001

For Immediate Release:

**Councilmembers Mercer Rigby, Jones, and Jung
Call on Howard County Public School System to**

Develop Integration Plan

Ellicott City, MD (August 13, 2019)- Howard County Councilmembers Christiana Mercer Rigby, Dr. Opel Jones, and Deb Jung will introduce a council resolution in September calling on the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) to develop a county-wide integration plan to desegregate its schools. Currently, school district boundaries in Howard County are drawn in a manner that concentrate students participating in the Free and Reduced Meals program (FARMs) into certain elementary, middle, and high schools.

This socioeconomic and racial segregation in the school system is contributing to increasing achievement gaps and decreasing graduation rates for low-income students and students of color. Historic systems have created these achievements gaps and it is incumbent on the County to introduce new systems that foster necessary change.

"I'm extremely proud of this resolution because it recognizes the past and promotes a fair and balanced future for our Howard County Public School System students," said Dr. Jones. "We are working together to resolve the problematic and systematic inconsistencies that lower-income students face every day. This resolution helps to enhance, promote, and encourage a unified and socioeconomic blended education system for all."

"While we often claim to prioritize diversity and inclusion in Howard County, our school districts do not reflect the values of integration and community that we have built our county on," said Councilwoman Mercer Rigby. "For decades, Howard County public schools have become increasingly segregated by race and socioeconomic status. Redistricting is a civil rights issue here in Howard County, and it's time to take meaningful strides toward integration in our education system."

In the last three years alone, graduation rates for students participating in the FARM program have dropped from 83% to 78%, which is 17% lower than the graduation rates for non-FARM students. During the same time frame, FARM program students have become increasingly concentrated in the same elementary, middle, and high schools in Howard County. These disparities in student outcomes can be found in the Howard County Public School System's [2019 Feasibility Study](#) and [2019 Equity Report](#) presented to the Board of Education.

"As Chair of the Howard County Board of Education, capable of casting only one vote, I support this resolution that focuses on the socioeconomic and racial desegregation of Howard County Public Schools," said Mavis Ellis. "Many have called for equity, and it's the Board of Education's hard decisions that will make equity happen for all students in Howard County."

"There's a strength in diversity that benefits our community. Legislation and resolutions alone cannot solve socioeconomic challenges or promote true racial integration; however, they can provide platforms that allow us to correct past errors," said Candace Dodson-Reed, founder of the African American Community Roundtable of Howard County and education advocate. "I applaud Councilwoman Mercer Rigby's and Councilman Jones' leadership and effort as they work with the community to ensure that each child in our public school system has everything they need to be successful."

"Let's reclaim Columbia's dream of equal opportunity for all by rebalancing the socioeconomic and racial profiles of Howard County's public schools," said Councilwoman Jung. "We know what we have to do, and we know the time is now."

Numerous academic studies indicate that diverse, integrated classrooms lead to better academic outcomes for all students, while increased segregation leads to greater achievement gaps for low-income students and students of color. While the school system undergoes its School Boundary Review Process, Councilmembers Mercer Rigby, Jones, and Jung call on HCPSS to comprehensively address the socioeconomic and racial segregation in Howard County Public Schools through a meaningful redistricting process.

The proposed resolution will be pre-filed on August 23, 2019 and will be introduced at the Council's legislative session on Tuesday, September 3, 2019. Testimony will be accepted at the legislative public hearing on Monday, September 16, 2019. To sign up to testify, visit <https://apps.howardcountymd.gov/otestimony/>. If you would like to submit your testimony electronically, email councilmail@howardcountymd.gov.

###

Howard County Council | ph: 410-313-2001 | web: cc.howardcountymd.gov

Howard County Council, 3430 Court House Dr., Ellicott City, MD 21043

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