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**Subject:** [External] Inquiry re: CR112-2019  
**Date:** Thursday, September 5, 2019 1:42:21 PM

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Dear Howard County Council Members,

My name is Kate Amara. I am the lead political reporter at WBAL-TV in Baltimore, but not emailing in that capacity today.

I am reaching out as a resident of [REDACTED] and the parent of [REDACTED] School. We live in polygon [REDACTED]. Our kids are not slated for reassignment under the Superintendent's redistricting plan...at least...not as of today.

I am asking every stakeholder and decision maker...to advocate for keeping Maple Lawn's three polygons– 259, 1259 and 1256 – together in the same elementary school.

Right now, you're probably thinking "I have no control over that process..." because that's the basic response I've heard ...from nearly every elected leader (not including the school board) when I've asked questions about the Superintendent's redistricting plan.

But you and I both know - that the county council, county agencies and the county executive play a key role in the process -- and are largely responsible for how we got here in the first place.

And so – please answer the following questions for this howard county mom... who knows what to ask, and who to ask it of, because she happens to be a journalist:

Why is it important to take up CR112-2019 at this moment in time?

Do you believe it is ethical for the County Council to insert itself into an already explosive public debate?

Do you believe it is wise to add an additional layer to a conversation that is already complex and confusing, and one many residents fear – they will not be a part of?

And finally, why take up a bill calling on the school department to draft and implement a plan.. when the howard county council approved the landscape as it now stands (please refer to Fulton Elementary School, APFO charts starting in 2014, and CB19-2016)? Why not take up legislation requiring the school superintendent to retroactively follow county law...and call on your own body to do the same going

forward?

I am eager to hear your answers to these questions...and I'll be at your legislative session tonight...in case you do it then.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kate Amara



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