

Danielle Lueking

From: HCPSS MPIA Requests
Sent: Friday, September 20, 2019 10:58 AM
To: 'katherinestrand3@gmail.com'
Subject: RE: New MPIA request 2020-070 submitted
Attachments: ATP Scan In Progress

Good morning Ms. Strand,

Please find attached a response to this MPIA along with one responsive email located within our search parameters. Thank you.

Danielle Lueking
Maryland Public Information Act Representative Howard County Public School System

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

From: mpia_requests@hcpss.org <mpia_requests@hcpss.org>
Sent: Friday, September 6, 2019 11:10 AM
To: HCPSS MPIA Requests <MPIA_Requests@hcpss.org>
Subject: New MPIA request 2020-070 submitted

A new Public Information Act request has been submitted.

Tracking Number: 2020-070
Created: 2019-09-06
Name: Katherine Strand
Email: katherinestrand3@gmail.com
Phone Number:
Street Address 1:
Street Address 2:
City:
State: MD
Zip Code:
URL: <http://mpia.hcpss.org/node/760>
Request:

I would like all emails between the Board of Education, the Superintendent, and any HCPSS staff and Kate Amara that include any references to and/or discuss CR-112-2019.



September 20, 2019

Katherine Strand

Response sent via email to katherinestrand3@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Strand:

The Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) on September 6, 2019, received your request under the Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA) seeking "emails between the Board of Education, the Superintendent and any HCPSS staff and Kate Amara that include any reference to and/or discuss CR-112-2019."

Responsive to this request, please find attached responsive emails located through a search using the name "Kate Amara" as a participant and the keyword "CR112." Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), which restricts access to student records, and MPIA GP § 4-313, which prevents disclosure of school district records pertaining to individual students, we have redacted information that could reveal individual student information from the responsive records. Under MPIA GP § 4-330, we have redacted sociological information where it contains personal phone numbers or addresses and/or has the potential to pose a risk to individual safety or privacy.

Pursuant to MPIA GP § 4-362, you are entitled to seek judicial review of this decision. You also have the option to refer any concerns regarding this decision to the Public Access Ombudsman pursuant to GP § 4-1B-01 *et seq.*

Please feel free to contact the Public Information Office at 410-313-6682 for further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Danielle Lueking".

Danielle Lueking
Maryland Public Information Act Representative

From: [Kate Amara](#)
To: [EWalsh@howardcountymd.gov](#); [OJones@howardcountymd.gov](#); [CRigby@howardcountymd.gov](#); [DJung@howardcountymd.gov](#); [DYungmann@howardcountymd.gov](#)
Cc: [JSingleton@howardcountymd.gov](#); [HCPSS Public Information](#); [Mavis Ellis](#); [Kirsten Coombs](#); [Vicky Cutroneo](#); [Christina Delmont-Small](#); [Jennifer Mallo](#); [Sabina Taj](#); [Chao Wu](#); [Student Board Member](#)
Subject: [External] Inquiry re: CR112-2019
Date: Thursday, September 5, 2019 1:42:21 PM

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



Kate Amara
WBAL-TV
amarakate@gmail.com

@kateamaraWBAL



410-338-6501 (newsroom)

Danielle Lueking

From: HCPSS MPIA Requests
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2019 9:24 AM
To: 'Brian D'Amico'
Subject: RE: [External] Re: New MPIA request 2020-197 submitted

Good morning Mr. D'Amico,

Yes, we can certainly hold off for now. I will put them all in waiting for clarification status and if you decide to return to any after the 21st we can discuss at that time. We appreciate the consideration of staff time involved!

Danielle Lueking
Maryland Public Information Act Representative Howard County Public School System

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

From: Brian D'Amico <wrkngclasshero@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2019 5:31 AM
To: HCPSS MPIA Requests <MPIA_Requests@hcpss.org>
Subject: [External] Re: New MPIA request 2020-197 submitted

Good morning Danielle,

Why don't you just sit tight for the time being all of my MPIA requests. The Board has made efforts to provide the public more info than in the past.

Can we just sit on my requests until after the 21st when the final Board redistricting decision is made? I don't want to waste anybody's time if the moves I was concerned about don't happen.

If this is ok with you I'll shoot you an e-mail after the Board makes their final redistricting decisions about whether or not to proceed with this request. Sound good?

Thanks!

-Brian D'Amico

Sent from my iPhone

> On Nov 7, 2019, at 3:23 PM, HCPSS MPIA Requests <MPIA_Requests@hcpss.org> wrote:

>

> Good afternoon Mr. D'Amico,

>

> For this particular request you asked to submit to mirror 2020-153, can you provide specifics on a date range for such records? Additionally, I believe the third request would also overlap with your previous two requests regarding Dr. Wu's personal email address, however I would similarly not be sure how to identify "residents of River Hill polygons affected

by the redistricting plan." Thank you for any clarification you can provide to define the scope of our search for responsive records.

>

>

> Danielle Lueking

> Maryland Public Information Act Representative Howard County Public

> School System

>

>

>

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: mpia_requests@hcpss.org <mpia_requests@hcpss.org>

> Sent: Wednesday, November 6, 2019 9:18 AM

> To: HCPSS MPIA Requests <MPIA_Requests@hcpss.org>

> Subject: New MPIA request 2020-197 submitted

>

> A new Public Information Act request has been submitted.

>

> Tracking Number: 2020-197

> Created: 2019-11-06

> Name: Brian D'Amico

> Email: wrkngclasshero@gmail.com

> Phone Number:

> Street Address 1:

> Street Address 2:

> City:

> State: MD

> Zip Code:

> URL:

> https://nam01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fmpia.hcpss.org%2Fnode%2F887&data=02%7C01%7CMPIA_Requests%40hcpss.org%7C9a030826e25e45ca000608d768249c10%7C96a9ac4c477e4dada2b28ad3fc46790b%7C1%7C0%7C637092378761129186&sdata=JJ9EWACTBEwbHJUuu8ZvAtznqHKn6Zi9sU%2BJNQMTKfk%3D&reserved=0

> hcpss.org%2Fnode%2F887&data=02%7C01%7CMPIA_Requests%40hcpss.org%7C

> 9a030826e25e45ca000608d768249c10%7C96a9ac4c477e4dada2b28ad3fc46790b%7C

> 1%7C0%7C637092378761129186&sdata=JJ9EWACTBEwbHJUuu8ZvAtznqHKn6Zi9s

> U%2BJNQMTKfk%3D&reserved=0

> Request:

> 1. Copies of any and all Facebook posts by Howard County Board of Education member, Dr. Chao Wu, with anything and everything related to redistricting.

> 2. Copies of any and all Facebook posts, by Howard County Board of Education member, Dr. Chao Wu, in the Howard County School Redistricting Opposition Public Sharing Group (which is a closed and member only group) developed and moderated by Steven Keller (a personal friend of Dr. Chao Wu).

> 3. Copies of all the emails that have been written, by Howard County

> Board of Education member, Dr. Chao Wu, to any and all residents of

> River Hill polygons affected by the redistricting plan (Including

> Steven Keller)

>

New MPIA request 2020-194 submitted

mpia_requests@hcpss.org <mpia_requests@hcpss.org>

Tue 11/5/2019 9:21 AM

To: HCPSS MPIA Requests <MPIA_Requests@hcpss.org>

A new Public Information Act request has been submitted.

Tracking Number: 2020-194

Created: 2019-11-05

Name: Brian D'Amico

Email: wrkngclasshero@gmail.com

Phone Number:

Street Address 1:

Street Address 2:

City:

State: MD

Zip Code:

URL: <http://mpia.hcpss.org/node/884>

Request:

On Dr Chu's personal website, <https://chaowu.org>, he indicated, in a September 2, 2019 blog entry, that he developed a computer model, using Python, to evaluate policy options for the High School Attendance Area redistricting (Participating in HCPSS 2020 Redistricting Process).

Seeing as this model is being used to inform Howard County policy decisions the public should have access to it and be able to provide feedback on the model as well. As such, I am requesting the list of documents below are provided to me, as well as made available to the public.

1. Copies of the actual model and associated code Dr Chao references in his September 2 blog entry.
2. Copies of any Quality Assurance Plans associated with developing this model to ensure there were no errors in the code itself or the resulting policy options developed by the model.
3. Copies of Howard County policies or guidance on the use of modeled outcomes to develop policy options.
4. Copies of Howard County policies or guidance on Quality Assurance requirements when using modeled outcomes to develop policy options.
5. Any peer review studies or external review of the model, beyond Dr Chau himself, to ensure the program was coded properly and the outcomes were in line with any stated quality goals.
6. Any information on how Dr Chau estimated the relative value or social costs associated with the changes modeled including but not limited: FARM ratios, overcrowding rates, test scores, etc. This may include: stated preference surveys, peer reviewed literature, published articles, etc.
7. The criteria that Dr Chau used when evaluating various policy options against one another, incurring but not limited to: how to compare the effects of moving students vs relative changes in overcrowding, changes in overall test scores at schools, potential decreases

in future earnings per capita due to decreased standardized testing scores.

8. The specific feedback that Dr Chau received after the County published his 10/30/19 option that resulted in the secretly revised 10/31/19 redistricting option posted on his private website; including the specific feedback causing him to redistrict Polygons 1100 and 100 from Centennial HS to Wilde Lake HS. This should includes any and all feedback that was set to Dr. Chau through the private g-mail account he used to solicit feedback on the redistricting through his private website.

9. Any and all documentation or e-mails associated with this model, including the names of Howard County staff that reviewed the model for precision and accuracy, the specific feedback they provided Dr. Chau, and how Dr. Chau revised his models to incorporate the feedback he received.

Danielle Lueking

From: Brian D'Amico <wrkngclasshero@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 3, 2019 8:35 PM
To: Hcpss Redistricting; HCPSS MPIA Requests
Subject: [External] Redistricting Comments/MPIA Request

To whom it may concern,

This e-mail should serve as both, feedback on the ongoing redistricting of HS attendance areas in Howard County, as well as a formal request for documents under the Maryland Public Information Act.

On Dr Chu's personal website, <https://chaowu.org>, he indicated, in a September 2, 2019 blog entry, that he developed a computer model, using Python, to evaluate policy options for the High School Attendance Area redistricting (Participating in HCPSS 2020 Redistricting Process).

Seeing as this model is being used to inform Howard County policy decisions the public should have access to it and be able to provide feedback on the model as well. As such, I am requesting the list of documents below are provided to me, as well as made available to the public.

1. Copies of the actual model and associated code Dr Chao references in his September 2 blog entry.
2. Copies of any Quality Assurance Plans associated with developing this model to ensure there were no errors in the code itself or the resulting policy options developed by the model.
3. Copies of Howard County policies or guidance on the use of modeled outcomes to develop policy options.
4. Copies of Howard County policies or guidance on Quality Assurance requirements when using modeled outcomes to develop policy options.
5. Any peer review studies or external review of the model, beyond Dr Chau himself, to ensure the program was coded properly and the outcomes were in line with any stated quality goals.
6. Any information on how Dr Chau estimated the relative value or social costs associated with the changes modeled including but not limited: FARM ratios, overcrowding rates, test scores, etc. This may include: stated preference surveys, peer reviewed literature, published articles, etc.
7. The criteria that Dr Chau used when evaluating various policy options against one another, incurring but not limited to: how to compare the effects of moving students vs relative changes in overcrowding, changes in overall test scores at schools, potential decreases in future earnings per capita due to decreased standardized testing scores.
8. The specific feedback that Dr Chau received after the County published his 10/30/19 option that resulted in the secretly revised 10/31/19 redistricting option posted on his private website; including the specific feedback causing him to redistrict Polygons 1100 and 100 from Centennial HS to Wilde Lake HS. This should include any and all feedback that was sent to Dr. Chau through the private g-mail account he used to solicit feedback on the redistricting through his private website.
9. Any and all documentation or e-mails associated with this model, including the names of Howard County staff that reviewed the model for precision and accuracy, the specific feedback they provided Dr. Chau, and how Dr. Chau revised his models to incorporate the feedback he received.

I also request that the fees associated with this MPIA request be waived; because ensuring the public has access to the data our decision makers use when developing policy options for the purpose of providing informed feedback is always in the public's best interest.

Finally, in the interest of transparency and good governance, I am also formally requesting that no final decisions regarding redistricting be made on policy options formulated using this computer model, including redistricting students in polygons 100 and 1100 from Centennial HS to Wilde Lake HS, until such time as the public is able to review and understand the code and assumptions used in developing this model, as well as provide their feedback on the appropriateness and accuracy of the model.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Brian D'Amico



Danielle Lueking

From: Brian D'Amico <wrkngclasshero@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 5, 2019 11:37 AM
To: HCPSS MPIA Requests
Subject: Re: [External] Update on MPIA receipts

Danielle,

I was reviewing the MPIA requests you are currently working through and I would like to mirror the request made in 2020-153 requesting Dr. Wu's Facebook posts on the private redistricting opposition Facebook page, as well as any other social media posts or private messages made to or from by Dr. Wu pertaining to the redistricting.

Thank you for your time.

-Brian D'Amico

>> On Nov 5, 2019, at 8:27 AM, HCPSS MPIA Requests <MPIA_Requests@hcpss.org> wrote:

> Good morning Mr. D'Amico,

>

> They were received as of yesterday, I just haven't gotten to process them yet in the system. Will be able to shortly. Thanks for checking.

>

>

> Danielle Lueking

> Maryland Public Information Act Representative Howard County Public

> School System

>

>

>

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Brian D'Amico <wrkngclasshero@gmail.com>

> Sent: Monday, November 4, 2019 6:16 PM

> To: HCPSS MPIA Requests <MPIA_Requests@hcpss.org>

> Subject: [External] Update on MPIA receipts

>

> Good evening,

>

> I submitted 3 MPIA requests yesterday, two through your online form and one via e-mail. So far I have not received an e-mail receipt for any of them. Can you please confirm that you received three requests from Brian D'Amico yesterday?

>

> Thank you for your time!

>

> -Brian D'Amico