



Michelle CL <michelle.caracaus@gmail.com>

Re: Inquiry

1 message

SMCHD ENV -SMCHD- <smchd.env@maryland.gov>
To: Michelle Caracaus Long <michelle.caracaus@gmail.com>

Wed, Nov 29, 2023 at 8:14 AM

Good Morning

The funding stream that the Health Department used to purchase the air quality sensors for the Breathe Well program is no longer available. The comprehensiveness of the initiative came from the sensors being placed at every public school in St. Mary's County. The air quality monitoring system that we have in place at the schools is the most comprehensive in the State. You are more than welcome to purchase the same type of air quality monitor that we use at the schools. We used Purple Air Sensors directly from Purple Air, Model PA-II-SD and were approximately \$230-\$300 per sensor.

I provided the link to the Maryland Cannabis Administration because that is where you can file a complaint about a specific facility and possibly obtain information on the processes that occur at a growing facility. I also provided the link to Maryland Department of Health because they should be able to answer any health related questions you have regarding the act of growing marijuana.

Thank you
Heather

On Sat, Nov 18, 2023 at 7:16AM Michelle Caracaus Long <michelle.caracaus@gmail.com> wrote:

Good morning Heather,

I appreciate the information and while I have also contacted the state facilities, it's hard to understand why I'm being directed to them when there is a whole specific Breathe Well St. Mary's Project underway. I am requesting a sensor for the Breathe Well St. Mary's initiative be added to Abell, MD, location specifically in the immediate vicinity of the cannabis growing and processing facility.

I raised this concern to the County Commissioners during their open forum on October 17th that how can our county have a whole initiative dedicated to a, "comprehensive air quality monitoring and health education initiative for St. Mary's County" (extracted from your website), but yet the closest sensor is ~6.6 miles away at Dynard instead of an area receiving a significant amount of complaints about a horrible smell from the residents? The worst part is it's not knowing what is in the smell. Is it VOCs? It's it something that can eventually seep into my groundwater or affect my outdoor animals since it's heavy enough to sit and linger in the air? Is it something that can trigger one of my family member's health issues or further complicate that? Will short term and long term exposure affect me?

No one can tell me what exactly I'm breathing and that is scary. It's also concerning and disappointing that no government body seems to care or want to help either. I don't want to see some lawyer infomercial several years down the road asking me if I lived in Abell because there is now some class action suit for cancer. I hope you understand my frustration and I appreciate any assistance you can provide.

Thank you,

Michelle

On Tue, Oct 17, 2023 at 1:24 PM SMCHD ENV -SMCHD- <smchd.env@maryland.gov> wrote:

Good Afternoon

I'm sorry if you did not receive the previous email I sent on September 22nd. The Maryland Cannabis Administration oversees the permits for the marijuana processing facility and Maryland Department of the Environment may be able to address any questions you have regarding the Air Quality. Below are the web addresses for both and should be able to provide you with the information you are requesting. Thank you

Maryland Cannabis Administration
MDE: Air Quality Program

Heather Moritz, LEHS
Director, Environmental Health Division
St. Mary's County Health Department
Main Office
PO Box 316, 21580 Peabody Street
Leonardtown, MD 20650
heather.moritz@maryland.gov
Environmental Health Office: 301-475-4321 (phone), 301-475-4373 (fax)
SMCHD Main Office: 301-475-4330
E-mail: smchd.env@maryland.gov

PLEASE SUBMIT INFORMATION REQUESTS TO THE FOLLOWING EMAIL ADDRESS: smchd.env@maryland.gov

Public information requests submitted to this office in writing will be responded to within 30 days. This record search will be conducted without access to a title search of the property. The information provided is based on the current regulations and policies as of this date. The information may not be valid if regulations and/or policies change.

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Administration Team
Environmental Health Division
[St. Mary's County Health Department](#)
Main Building
P.O. Box 316, 21580 Peabody Street
Leonardtown, MD 20650
Environmental Health: 301-475-4321 (phone), 301-475-4373 (fax)
SMCHD Main: 301-475-4330 (phone)
E-mail: smchd.env@maryland.gov

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