Dear Council Member Gordon:

As you know, the Charter Commission in collaboration with the City Council has created a Task Force of its members to look at the Charter's existing provisions on redistricting and to report back to the full Charter Commission on whether and what changes to the Charter should be considered prior to the redistricting that will occur after the 2010 census.

The Task Force has met and determined that its work would be facilitated by some background research, including the history of the current Minneapolis Charter provisions concerning redistricting, redistricting procedures and processes in other municipalities and the available literature on best practices on redistricting and selection of redistricting commissions or appointments.

We therefore respectfully request that the Elections Committee direct staff to provide the Charter Commission Task Force with staff assistance in these areas and in its ongoing work with respect to the redistricting provisions in the Charter.

Thanks for your consideration and let me know if you have any questions.

Jim Bernstein, Chair
Minneapolis Charter Commission