

Citizens for Fair Redistricting Committee

Citizens Committee for Fair Redistricting

January 27, 2012

Key supporters

Somali Women Educational Fund
League of East African Voters
Darul Quba Community Center
Riverside Plaza Tenants Association
Cedar Riverside Youth Council..
Quba Café
Riverside International Mall
West Bank Tax Service
Castelli Business Services
West Bank Community Coalition
Cedar Riverside NRP
Health Commons
Haan Relief & Development
Horn of Africa Community Development
Masjid Rowda Community Center
East Village Grill
Masha'Allah Restaurant
Afrik Grocery
East Africa International Mall
Sagal Restaurant

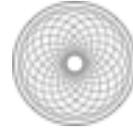
Mr. Barry Clegg, Chair
Minneapolis Charter Commission
350 South 5th Street, Room 317
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Re: Redistricting

Dear Mr. Clegg:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Citizens Committee for Fair Redistricting. We are a group of individuals, business owners, religious leaders, community activists primarily from the Somali and East African Community, who are interested in participating in the redrawing of the thirteen City wards which represent Minneapolis residents. We believe that the time has come for the City of Minneapolis to recognize the diversity of Minneapolis residents and it be reflected in the Ward map of the city.

According to the last federal decennial census, the City of Minneapolis has a minority population of 40%. Yet minorities are extremely underrepresented on the Minneapolis City Council. Currently, of the thirteen wards, there is only one elected official from the minority community. In a city of 382,000, there are over 150,000 minority members. If there was proportional representation on the Minneapolis City Council, five of the thirteen Wards would be represented by people from the minority population. We think this lack of representation in elected offices in Minneapolis City Hall is grossly unfair. We also find some of that underrepresentation can be attributed to the way current ward boundaries are drawn. In our view, the minority populations have been divided at the expense of the majority populations.

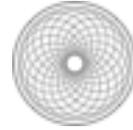


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The Somali and East African community is composed mostly of immigrants from Somalia and East Africa. We are a hard working, family orientated, and patriotic community that has demonstrated its political cohesiveness. In the 2010 election, the Somali and East Africans became much more politically active in the DFL gubernatorial primary and the general election race. In the general election, the precincts surrounding the Cedar/Riverside community voted overwhelmingly for Governor Mark Dayton by a vote of 2,187 to 255 for Tom Emmer in these four precincts. More recently, in the 2011 Special Elections, a Somali candidate ran for the State Senate seat in District 60, generating 666 votes, or over one-third of the vote in the DFL primary. In the Senate District 59 election, the Somali and east African community came within 360 votes of succeeding to elect Mohamed Noor in the DFL primary for another State Senate seat. In both of these elections, we believe our community demonstrated their political cohesiveness and political involvement.

The Somali and East African community is centered primarily in the Cedar/Riverside neighborhood, the western Seward neighborhood, the Elliot Park neighborhood, and throughout the Phillips community. We believe that City redistricting should account for these factors. Attached you find a list of buildings, neighborhoods, businesses, and mosques located in these neighborhoods. Also, we have prepared a redistricting map to create a minority opportunity ward in the communities of Seward, Elliot Park, Cedar/Riverside, and the Phillips neighborhood. The map we have created would create a district that is regular, compact and contiguous and would comply with the requirements of the Minneapolis City Charter. We label this as Ward 2, and it would form a district which has a 40% African American or black population, a white population of 33%, an Hispanic population of 20%, and a Native American population of 7%. We believe this would create a minority opportunity ward in the near Southside. The district would also fit into a larger City redistricting population that would create regular, compact and contiguous districts throughout the City.

The map also would create two other inner-city wards. The first would be the new 6th ward, which would be comprised primarily of downtown, the Whittier neighborhood, and the western part of the Phillips neighborhood. It would also create a new 8th ward that would have a 28% Hispanic population and create a potential minority opportunity ward. It would likewise make rationale ward boundaries throughout the remainder of the City and would seek to achieve fair redistricting. A deviation from population goes



from +2.5% to -3.3%. This is within the requirements of the City Charter. The ward with the largest deviation under would be the 6th ward at slightly 1,000 under the ideal and a deviation of 3.3%. However, we would note that the 6th ward is likely the one that will grow the largest as it includes the downtown area, which is projected to be one of the highest growth areas in the City over the next decade. In truth, this new 6th Ward is probably already over populated using current estimates.

Key supporters

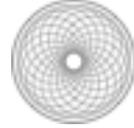
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Hazel Reinhardt, the former State Demographer, is working with us as a consultant on our efforts. Ms. Reinhardt has a wealth of knowledge about population, demographic and social trends that affect communities like ours. We intend to be involved in your considerations of the Redistricting Committee and actions of the Charter Commission over the next two months and hope to have meaningful input into your decisions. We have had a chance to review various documents prepared by your Redistricting Committee and hope to work within those parameters.

We would, however, note that one of the proposed principles for your Redistricting Committee, Number 1 n raises some concerns. Currently, criteria 1 n provides as follows:

Subject to applicable law and the overriding principles of fairness and equity and in the interest of continuity, the redistricting group will change boundaries of wards or park districts as little as possible.

While we appreciate this principle, we hope that it will not be interpreted in such a way as to act merely as an incumbent protection device that would preclude our plan from being given fair and full consideration. While the population of the City of Minneapolis basically remained static between 2000 and 2010, there were dramatic changes within the demographic of the City. First, the minority population of the City increased. Secondly, because of the economic downturn, many members of our communities are renters. The stagnant economy has prevented many of our members from moving into home ownership and moving outside the boundaries of the City as economic opportunity has remained flat. The population of the City remained largely the same over the last decade, yet the City lost nearly 30,000 jobs – from 310,000 jobs to 280,000 jobs. This has made the opportunity for economic advancement much more difficult for economically disadvantaged populations. Home ownership has dropped and unemployment remains high in our community. We believe



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the opportunity to have a minority elected official can, in the long term, address these problems. Also, we found that there is greater and greater concentration of members of our community.

We would ask the Charter Commission and Redistricting Committee to consider our map at the meeting on February 1st, and as you and your staff develop a future plan, consider these important demographic changes. Ms. Reinhardt would be available as a resource to your consultants and staff as they consider an appropriate, fair and equitable redistricting in the City of Minneapolis.

We look forward to working with you on this very important matter.

Very truly yours,

Abdulkadir Warsame
On behalf of the Citizens Committee for Fair Redistricting

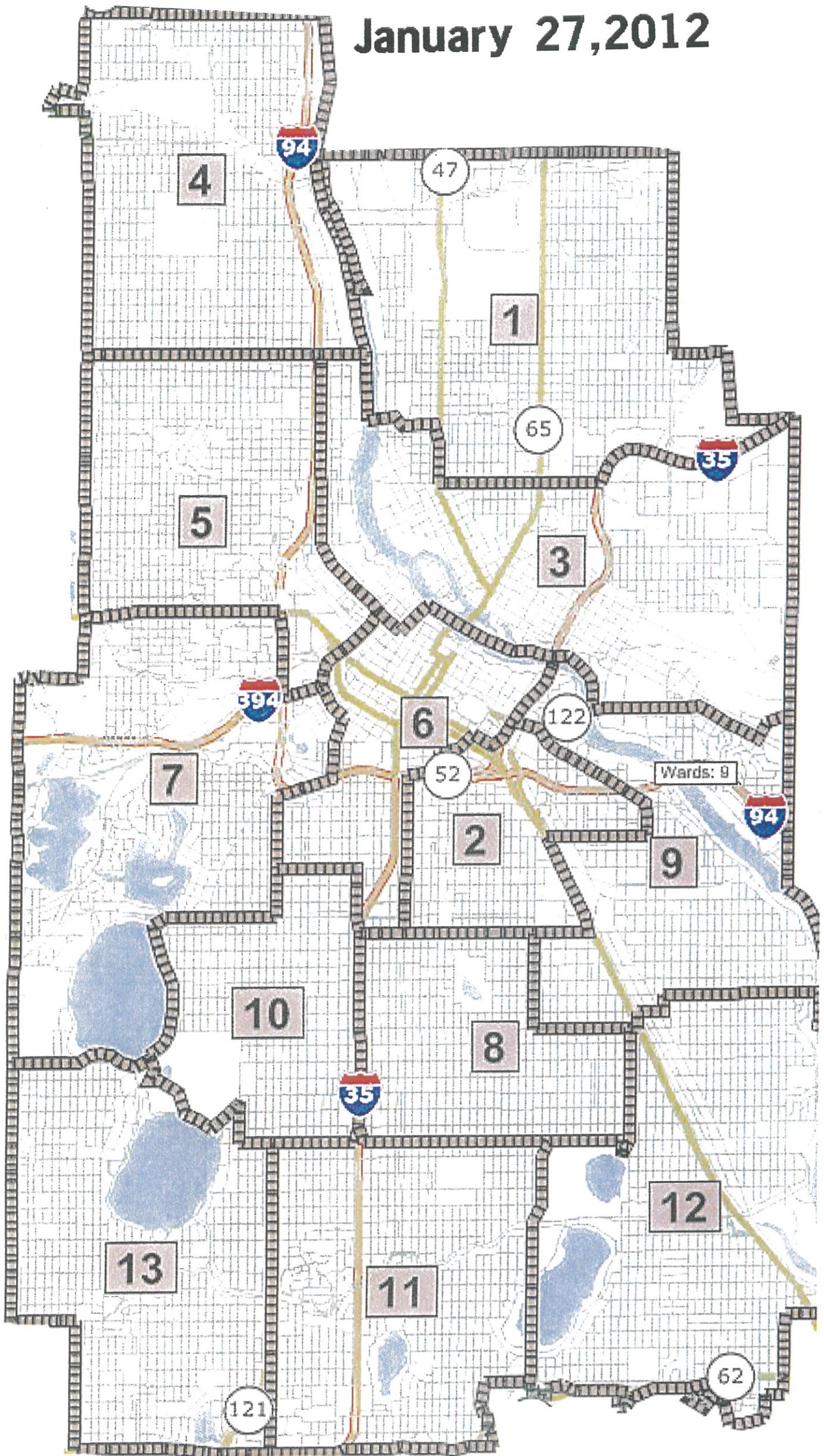
cc: Charter Commission Members
Redistricting Committee Members
Senator Jeff Hayden
Senator Kari Dzeidzic
Representative Phyllis Kahn
Representative Karen Clark
Ken Martin, DFL Chair
Hazel Reinhardt

Sincerely yours,

Citizens For Fair Redistricting Committee

CITIZENS COMMITTEE ON FAIR REDISTRICTING

January 27, 2012



City															
District	Population	Deviation	%deviation	Black	%black	AmIndian	%AmIndian	Asian	%Asian	White	%White	Hispanic	%Hispanic	18+ Population	%18+ Population
		-29429	%		%		%		%		%		%		
1	28,950	-479	-1.63	3,358	11.60	580	2.00	851	2.94	21,008	72.57	3,272	11.30	23,023	79.53
2	29,616	187	0.64	11,842	39.99	2,020	6.82	1,148	3.88	9,901	33.43	5,790	19.55	22,274	75.21
3	29,667	238	0.81	2,448	8.25	391	1.32	2,689	9.06	22,468	75.73	1,657	5.59	27,324	92.10
4	28,778	-651	-2.21	9,649	33.53	480	1.67	3,022	10.50	12,988	45.13	2,075	7.21	20,369	70.78
5	29,166	-263	-0.89	15,370	52.70	502	1.72	4,140	14.19	6,113	20.96	2,500	8.57	18,825	64.54
6	28,446	-983	-3.34	6,762	23.77	525	1.85	1,647	5.79	17,157	60.31	2,618	9.20	25,625	90.08
7	30,192	763	2.59	2,715	8.99	179	0.59	1,717	5.69	24,181	80.09	1,279	4.24	26,510	87.80
8	29,940	511	1.74	5,466	18.26	869	2.90	904	3.02	15,779	52.70	8,517	28.45	21,976	73.40
9	29,489	60	0.20	3,151	10.69	645	2.19	2,347	7.96	20,823	70.61	2,503	8.49	25,429	86.23
10	29,571	142	0.48	3,860	13.05	471	1.59	875	2.96	20,589	69.63	4,518	15.28	24,856	84.06
11	29,570	141	0.48	3,247	10.98	256	0.87	697	2.36	23,143	78.27	1,861	6.29	22,691	76.74
12	29,918	489	1.66	2,257	7.54	580	1.94	713	2.38	23,739	79.35	2,602	8.70	24,162	80.76
13	29,275	-154	-0.52	1,073	3.67	103	0.35	822	2.81	26,197	89.49	881	3.01	22,307	76.20
Total	382,578			71,198	18.61	7,601	1.99	21,572	5.64	244,086	63.80	40,073	10.47	305,371	79.82

Somali Dominated Residences & Businesses Part I.

(all addresses are in Minneapolis unless specified otherwise)

Building Number	Building Name	Other Details
2515 Franklin Ave S	Seward Towers West	High Rise
2728 Franklin Ave S	Seward Towers West	High Rise
Franklin & 30 th St S	?	Franklin & 30 th St S
2910 Franklin Ave S	Seward Towers East	High Rise
2431 E. Franklin Ave	Seward Market & Halal	
2300 Franklin Ave	Franklin Housing Corp.	Multi-family Housing complex
2329 S 9 th St		High Rise
2220 Franklin Ave	Cedars 94 Bldg	High Rise
?	911 Cedars 94	High Rise
912 22ns Ave S.		Opposite Bldg to 911 Cedars 94
2121 9 th St.	Seward Square	High Rise
2019 16 th Ave S.*		* Three adjacent Bldgs
1700 E. 22ns St.*		High Rise
2121 16 th Ave S.*		High Rise
1415 E. 22ns St.		High Rise
2100 Bloomington Ave S.	Village at Franklin Station	Multi-Family Housing complex
1323 S. 14 th St S.		Corner of 14 th Ave S & 22nd
1212 9 th St S.		Intersection of 9 th St 13 th Ave S
1225 8 th St		At 11 th Ave S – High Rise Bldg
1415 11 th Ave S.		Low rise/Town Home style Bldg
1409 11 th Ave S.		
1105 8 th St.		
1111 8 th St		
1115 8 th St		
1117 8 th St		
1119 8 th St		
1123 8 th St		
1125 8 th St		
1127 8 th St		
1129 8 th St		
1131 8 th St		
1133 8 th St		
1133 8 th St		
1110 15 th St E.		
920 E. 19 th St		Canadian Terrace
1825 Elliott Ave**		** Low rise (PPL Housing)
1819 Elliott Ave		
1811 Elliott Ave		
1807 Elliott Ave		

1801 Elliott Ave		
2020 Elliott Ave	Collabor. Properties - PPL	
918 22 nd St. E.	Phillips Towers	
912 E. 24 th St.	Somali Mall @ 24★	Multi-Store Businesses
2419 E. 24 th St.***		*** Adjacent High Rise Bldgs
2433 E. 5 th St		
2523 Portland Ave S	Ebenezer Towers	Hi Rise – Somali/A. Americans
1518 Franklin Ave E.	Many Rivers Bldgs	@ Franklin, Bloomington & 14th
1400 Franklin Ave E.		
611 Franklin Ave E.	Hope Community	Low-rise/ Multi-fam. Housing
620 Franklin Ave E.	The Wellstone	Low-rise/ Multi-fam. Housing
511 Franklin Ave	The Jordan	@ Portland Ave S (Hi Rise)
1829 E. 5 th St.		
501 E. 19 th St.		
1600 Portland Ave S		
501 E. 15 th St.	Madison Apartments	Adjacent Bldgs
513 E. 15 th St	Madison Apartments	
1501 S. 6 th St.	Darul Quba Cultural Center★	
3225 E Minnehaha Pkwy	Masjid Omar Islamic Cenetr	
983 17 th Ave SE	Daral Farooq	
504 Cedar Ave S.	Darl Al-Hijrah Islamic Center	
2824 13 th Ave S.	Abubakar As-Sadique Mosque	
1926 Chicago Ave	Minnesota Halal Market Inc.	
410 Cedar Ave S.	Halal Mini Market	
912 E 24 th St.	Mecca Foods-Halal Market	
1929 S. 5 th St.	Halal Meal Delivery	
1525 S. 4 th St. #100	Plaza Halal Foods	
343 E Lake St.	Community Halal Grocery	
1304 E. Lake St. #102	Bader Grocery & Halal Market	
1525 S 4th St.	Super Palaza Halal Foods	
1931 S 5th St.	Afro Deli & Coffee	
411 Cedar Ave S.	Ubah Restaurant	
419 Cedar Ave S	Cedar Cafe	
419 Cedar Ave S.	Cedar Mailboxes Inc.	
609 Cedar Ave S.	Alle Amin Coffee SHop	
1922 Chicago Ave	Cairo Grill	
605 Cedar Ave S.	Masha' Allah Restaurant	
320 Cedar Ave S.	Red Sea Bar & Restaurant	
620 S. 16th Ave	African International Mall	
2200 E Franklin Ave	Juba Grocery Store	
2223 E Franklin Ave	2 nd Moon Cafe	
2325 E Franklin Ave	Shabelle Grocery & Deli	
2000 24th Ave S.	Hayat Beauty Salon	
2423 E Franklin	Lakes Pharmacy	

2711 E. Franklin Ave	Gargaar Clinic & Pharmacy	
2401 E Franklin	Himilayan Restaurant	
607 Cedar Ave S	Afrik Grocery & Halal Meats	