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.

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.

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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Afrik Grocery
East Africa International Mall
Sagal Restaurant

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

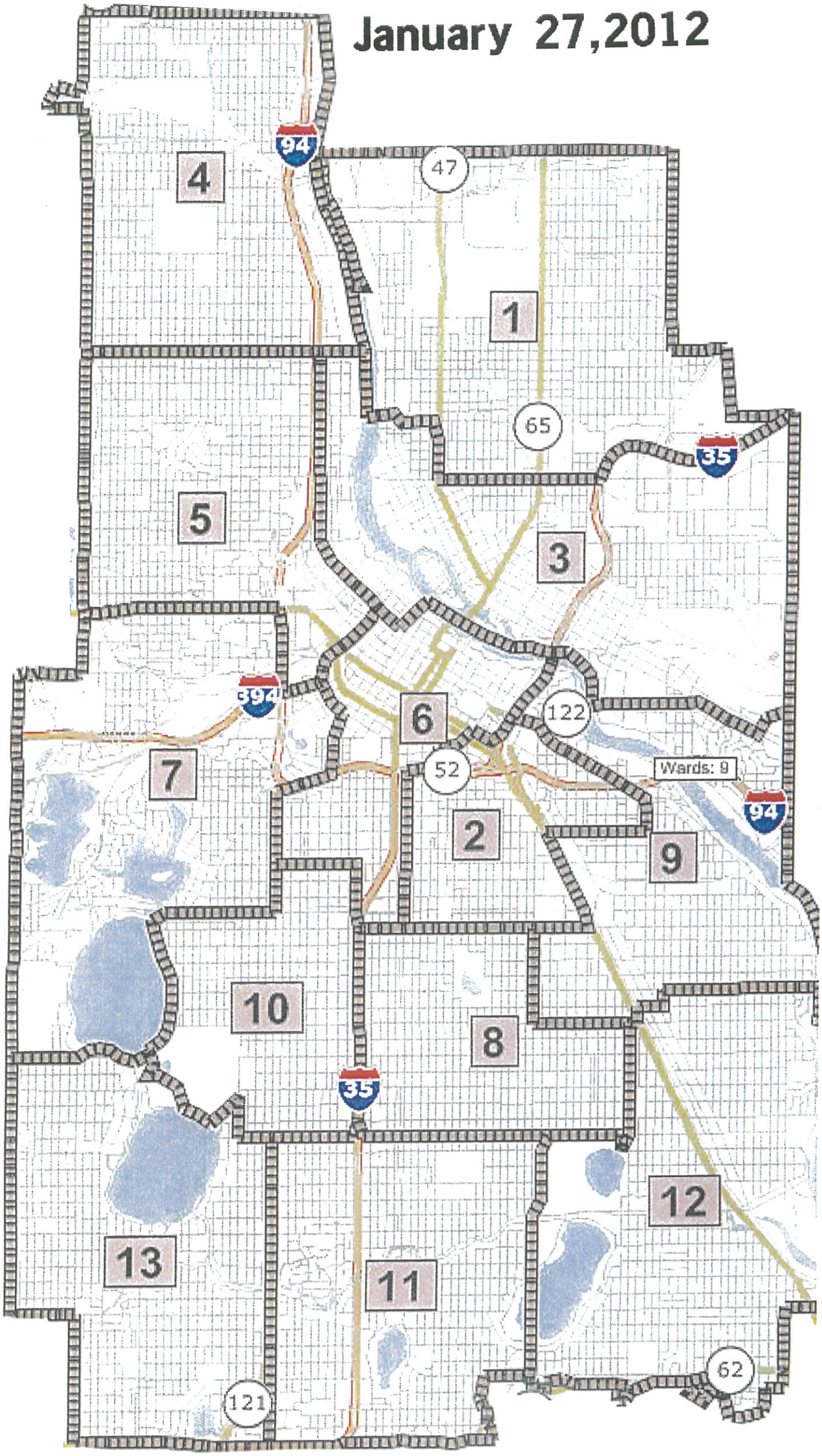
cc: Charter Commission Members
Redistricting Committee Members
Senator Jeff Hayden
Senator Kari Dzeidzic
Representative Phyllis Kahn
Representative Karen Clark
Ken Martin, DFL Chair
Hazel Reinhardt

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 & 30th St S	?	Franklin & 30th 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 9th 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 9th St.	Seward Square	High Rise
2019 16th Ave S.*		* Three adjacent Bldgs
1700 E. 22ns St.*		High Rise
2121 16th Ave S.*		High Rise
1415 E. 22ns St.		High Rise
2100 Bloomington Ave S.	Village at Franklin Station	Multi-Family Housing complex
1323 S. 14th St S.		Corner of 14th Ave S & 22nd
1212 9th St S.		Intersection of 9th St 13th Ave S
1225 8th St		At 11th Ave S – High Rise Blgd
1415 11th Ave S.		Low rise/Town Home style Blgd
1409 11th Ave S.		
1105 8th St.		
1111 8th St		
1115 8th St		
1117 8th St		
1119 8th St		
1123 8th St		
1125 8th St		
1127 8th St		
1129 8th St		
1131 8th St		
1133 8th St		
1133 8th St		
1110 15th St E.		
920 E. 19th 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 22nd St. E.	Phillips Towers	
912 E. 24th St.	Somali Mall @ 24★	Multi-Store Businesses
2419 E. 24th St.***		*** Adjacent High Rise Bldgs
2433 E. 5th 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. 5th St.		
501 E. 19th St.		
1600 Portland Ave S		
501 E. 15th St.	Madison Apartments	Adjacent Bldgs
513 E. 15th St	Madison Apartments	
1501 S. 6th St.	Darul Quba Cultural Center★	
3225 E Minnehaha Pkwy	Masjid Omar Islamic Cenetr	
983 17th Ave SE	Daral Farooq	
504 Cedar Ave S.	Darl Al-Hijrah Islamic Center	
2824 13th Ave S.	Abubakar As-Sadique Mosque	
1926 Chicago Ave	Minnesota Halal Market Inc.	
410 Cedar Ave S.	Halal Mini Market	
912 E 24th St.	Mecca Foods-Halal Market	
1929 S. 5th St.	Halal Meal Delivery	
1525 S. 4th 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 Aamin 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	2nd 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	

Menshek, Peggy Y

From: Larry Olds <larryolds@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2012 2:03 PM
To: barry@bfclegg.com; cohendan1@msn.com; corbinconnell@gmail.com; xmargedolan@comcast.net; todd.ferrara@standardheating.com; invisionit@msn.com; kozaknsa@mm.com; barrylaz@gmail.com; blickness@yahoo.com; singdancesavetheworld@gmail.com; jahp2691@yahoo.com; arubenstein@schaeferlaw.com; jfschartercomm@comcast.net; Redistricting2012
Subject: request to get our orphan block reattached to our neighbors
Attachments: ward 8 orphan block.pdf

Dear Charter Commission,

I am writing with the hope of getting our "orphan block" reattached to a ward with our neighbors in the reapportionment process that is underway. I live on the small block between 15th and 14th Ave, 33rd street and the alley separating us from Powderhorn Park. Ten years ago we were taken out of Ward 9 and put into Ward 8. We are separated from all of the rest of Ward 8 by the park. All our neighbors are in Ward 9.

I believe a mistake was made; the folks doing the reapportionment used a map that didn't show our block as full of buildings, but rather as part of the park itself. In fact, in the first campaign after the last reapportionment, Gary's campaign didn't know and continued to distribute literature to our block which was no longer part of his ward.

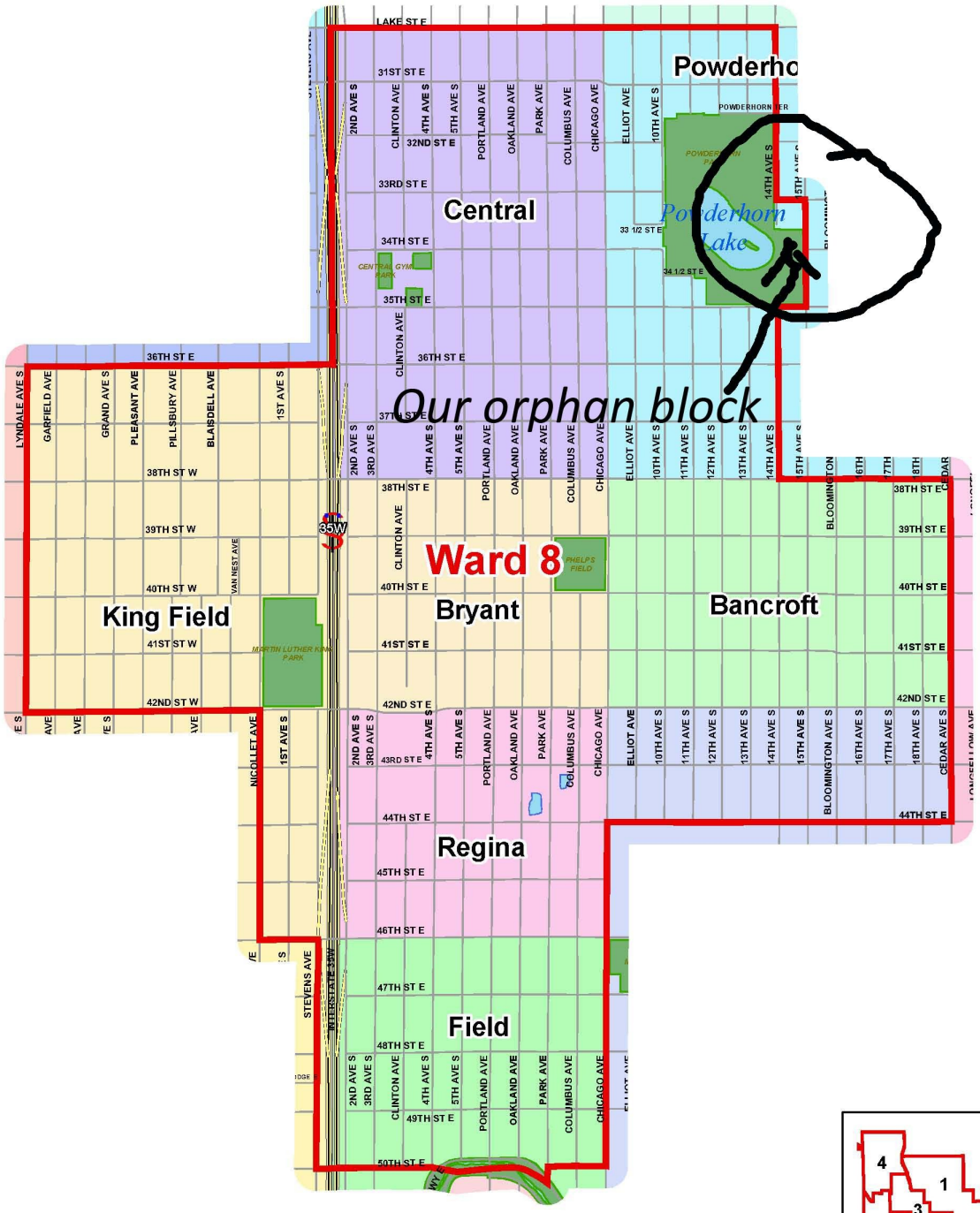
This doesn't make sense. We should be in a ward with our neighbors.
The simple solution would be to put our block back in Ward 9.
Alternately our neighbors could be put in Ward 8 with us - we were in Ward 8 when we first moved to our place on 15th Ave in 1974. We should not be a half a mile from others in our ward.

I hope you received this request earlier. I have attached a pdf map of Ward 8 showing our "orphan block."

Thank you,
Larry Olds

--
Larry Olds
3322 15th Ave S
Minneapolis MN 55407 USA
612 722 3442

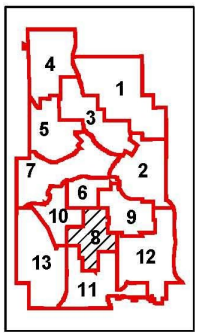
Ward 8



Legend

- City Boundary
- Ward Boundary
- Neighborhood Boundaries

Miles: 0, 0.125, 0.25, 0.5



City of Minneapolis

Wards and Neighborhoods

Created: January, 2006 F:\GIS\Maps\mxd\Standard_City\Ward3_06_NHood.mxd

Minnesota Common Cause
Holding Power Accountable

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
MINNESOTA EDUCATION FUND

January 30, 2012

Dear City Clerk,

In less than a month, cities across Minnesota will begin the decennial redistricting process to redraw city council lines to adjust for population shifts. It appears cities will have to go through the difficult process of redrawing lines in less than 60 days as a result of the broken redistricting process at the state level.

While this timeline creates challenges for local government across the state, we encourage you to ensure that the redistricting process is fair, transparent, and has meaningfully opportunity for citizen input. This decade, redistricting in Minnesota and across the country has faced increased scrutiny from a public who has grown distrustful of redistricting lines being drawn behind closed doors. This should come as no surprise because of the extreme examples of partisan gerrymandering that occurred in Texas and California during the last decade. While in Minnesota the redistricting process has not seen the problems that occurred in those states, there was a lawsuit and significant public scrutiny in Minneapolis because of how the process was handled.

That is why Common Cause Minnesota and League of Women Voters Minnesota have spent the last year working to reform and improve the redistricting process in Minnesota. As you move forward in the next several weeks, we urge you to adopt rules and procedures outlined below to ensure that the 2012 redistricting process is as fair and transparent as possible. These recommendations are an important step that local governments can take to help build public trust in the redistricting process. We strongly believe that community input and transparency will help line drawers develop districts that better reflect the real communities that exist. In the end, our organizations believe that these recommendations will help instill greater public confidence in the redistricting process:

- **Adopt redistricting principles at the beginning of the process.**
  State law and past court decisions have outlined the redistricting principles that local government must follow. However, each local government should identify how it intends to prioritize those principles and if it intends to include any other principles during the redistricting process.

- **Provide 14 days notice before any public forums are held.**
  Adequate public notice is necessary to ensure that the public can provide meaningful public input into the process.

- **Develop and maintain a public website**
  The website will allow members of the public to monitor and comment on the redistricting committee's work. This website shall be fully functional and accessible by members of the general public.

- The website shall make available all demographic, political data, and other data considered by the redistricting commission.
- The website shall make available all comments received by the committee.

- **Allow for public comments to be submitted**
  Facilitate public comments and public submission of redistricting proposals through regular testimony, public meetings, and the internet. At first, public testimony should be focused on helping to identify communities of interest. This is what the Minnesota special redistricting panel did to engage the community in their process. This input is valuable because community members can provide this valuable information on where different communities are located throughout the city. The goal of any redistricting plan should be to minimize dividing these communities of interest and keeping similar communities of interest grouped together.

- **Public Meetings**
  Hold at least one public meetings prior to the release of the preliminary plan and at least one public meetings after the release of the preliminary plan.

- **Release a preliminary plan**
  The preliminary plan should include all data and a map for public review and comment on during a two week period. Requesting this feedback is necessary to draw a map that reflects the communities that exist in your city.

We hope that you will consider these recommendations as you proceed in the next several weeks. By adopting these ideas, you can help build public trust in the process and ensure that the public has a strong voice in these important redistricting decisions.

Sincerely,

Mike Dean
Common Cause Minnesota

Laura Fredrick-Wang
League of Women Voters, Minnesota

Menshek, Peggy Y

From: Lisa <catwoman5645@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 7:45 PM
To: Redistricting2012
Subject: Wenonah Neighborhood

I grew up in the Wenonah neighborhood and have lived here most of my adult life. For quite a few years now our neighborhood on the south shore of Lake Nokomis has been annexed from the 12th ward, and are a part of the 11th ward. We feel alienated. Cedar Ave. devides us like the Mississippi does Mpls from St. Paul. Our elementary schools are partnered as Wenonah/Keewaydin, not Wenonah/Hale. The kids go to Roosevelt for high school, not Washburn. We tend to patronize the merchants on 28th & 34th Avenues. We play at Bossen Field & Keewaydin, not Pearl Park.

I really think are neighborhood should be back where it belongs, with our neighbors.

Elizabeth Swanson
5645 Standish AvenueSouth
Minneapolis, MN 55417

Menshek, Peggy Y

From: Carol Oosterhuis <cmoosterhuis@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 9:59 PM
To: Redistricting2012
Subject: Redistricting of District 6-5 and 6-6

I would like you to consider changing the lines for district 6-5 and 6-6. These precincts are long and narrow and 6-5 has not had a good voting location. 6-5 is 1.2 miles long and .2 miles wide. 6-6 is .8 miles long and .2 miles wide. I have been an election judge for many years for the area of 6-5 and the voting has occurred at the Trinity Lutheran Church and also at the Library. The individuals at both of these locations were great to work with, but the locations created logistical problems for the election judges because it was difficult to have the ballot counter away from other traffic. It is my understanding that 6-6 uses the Pentagon Building, 1415 22nd, has ample room. In the past, the meeting space at the Phillips Eye Institute, 22nd and Park, was used for voting. This was a great space and had sufficient room. If these precincts could be redivided so that the areas would be similar to .4 miles square; the result could be that the voting could then occurr in the Phillips Eye Institute again and remain in the Pentagon building. This would result in more people being within walking distance to the polls, and better spaces so the legal requirements for space from the ballot box could be followed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Carol Oosterhuis

Carol Oosterhuis
4750 53rd St E
Minneapolis, MN 55417
612-227-9958
cmoosterhuis@msn.com

Menshek, Peggy Y

From: Michael Schmitz <michael.schmitz@westbankcc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 1:11 PM
To: Menshek, Peggy Y
Subject: Redistricting Question

Hello Ms. Menshek,

Council Member Cam Gordon's Aid, Robin Garwood, asked me to write you with regard to the proposal from the Citizens Committee for Fair Redistricting. He pointed out to me in the email below that the West Bank Community Coalition has been listed as a supporter of the proposal.

You should know that the WBCC has not discussed a redistricting proposal in any of our monthly board meetings since I was hired in August of last year. I am not aware of any position taken by any WBCC committee or by individual board members on this matter, although I have emailed our executive committee to inquire if the board took a position prior to August 2011.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Michael Schmitz
Executive Director, West Bank Community Coalition
612-339-2882 | michael.schmitz@westbankcc.org | www.westbankcc.org

Menshek, Peggy Y

From: Elena Gaarder <GaarderE@puc-mn.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 1:18 PM
To: Menshek, Peggy Y
Cc: Garwood, Robin D.
Subject: Citizens Committee on Fair Redistricting proposal

Peggy,

It has been brought to my attention that the Cedar Riverside NRP has been listed as a key supporter of the Citizens Committee on Fair Redistricting Proposal that will be heard at the meeting today. As the Executive Director of the organization, I would like for it to go on record that the Cedar Riverside Neighborhood Revitalization Program (CRNRP) has not reviewed nor taken any formal position on the proposal as outlined in the January 27, 2012 letter submitted to Minneapolis Charter Commission Chair, Barry Clegg.

Thank you,

Elena Gaarder
CRNRP Executive Director
420 15th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55454

Menshek, Peggy Y

From: Michael Schmitz <michael.schmitz@westbankcc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 2:10 PM
To: Menshek, Peggy Y
Subject: Re: Redistricting Question

Hello Peggy,

Abdulkadir Warsame just emailed me to let me know that the WBCC was included in the list of supporters by mistake; they had included us in a list of organizations they wanted to get support from and transposed us to the list of supporters.

Michael

On Feb 1, 2012, at 1:12 PM, Menshek, Peggy Y wrote:

Thank you for your email. It will be before the Redistricting Group members at their meeting tonight.

Peggy Menshek
Council Committee Coordinator
304 City Hall | 350 South 5th Street
Minneapolis MN 55415
612-673-2287

From: Michael Schmitz [mailto:michael.schmitz@westbankcc.org]
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 1:11 PM
To: Menshek, Peggy Y
Subject: Redistricting Question

Hello Ms. Menshek,

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Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Michael Schmitz
Executive Director, West Bank Community Coalition
612-339-2882 | michael.schmitz@westbankcc.org | www.westbankcc.org