From:	CJ L
To:	Redistricting2012; larry@hnampls.org
Cc:	playclothesco@juno.com
Subject:	Keeping Harrison as One Precinct
Date:	Thursday, March 01, 2012 4:43:03 PM

To: Redistricting Commission, City of Minneapolis:

I have been a Harrison Neighborhood resident since 1979. I just learned about the redistricting plan to split Harrison in half that includes residents North of Glenwood staying in Ward 5 and residents South of Glenwood Avenue would move into Ward 7. I am writing to request reconsideration of this proposal and to voice my objection to such a plan.

Over the years this neighborhood, once a forgotten, lost in the shuffle and neglected area, has become a neighborhood where change has taken place and is now for many, a close neighborhood and a community in which we are proud to reside. But it is still one that still has much to accomplish. I am greatly concerned that breaking up our neighborhood will disenfranchise the area residents and destroy what has taken decades to develop and dilute our voting base.

I submit splitting this neighborhood will make it difficult to pursue our community issues and the long range plans we have worked so hard for. Will the voice of the residents South of Glenwood, in my case, of approximately 1500, be heard when merged into the 7th ward? I think not.

And what of the risk of returning to segregation in Minneapolis? This is extremely distressing. Harrison is 70% people of color with a median income of $38,000 and the community to the South is 86% White with a median income of $64,000. Will we then be in violation of the Voting Rights Act. Not to mention it is in our diversity, that residents of Harrison take much pride.

And last but not least, what is the benefit? What is gained by taking contiguous land with similar zoning and moving them into different wards? Ward lines should not create islands disconnecting people from opportunities we have developed and representation which these current plans for redistricting is sure to create.

I strongly support the map created by the Community with the assistance of Mike Dean from Common Cause located at:

http://localdistrictbuilder.drawminnesota.org/districtmapping/plan/468/view

Thank you for consideration.

Sincerely,
Cheryl Leach
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