From:	Hiscock, Larry
To:	Menshek, Peggy Y
Subject:	FW: Harrison Neighborhood Association Public Comment
Date:	Sunday, March 04, 2012 11:02:53 PM
Attachments:	plan-2.pdf plan-5.pdf SKMBT_C45112030212470.pdf

Peggy,

Please forward to all Minneapolis Charter Commissioners our comment and concerns regarding the proposed Ward Maps.

Thank you,

Larry Hiscock
Director/Lead Organizer
612-374-4849

I GoodSearch and GoodShop for the Harrison Neighborhood Association.

Raise money for Harrison Neighborhood Association just by searching the Internet with GoodSearch.com (powered by Yahoo), or shopping online with GoodShop.com. Simply go to http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/harrison-neighborhood-association-hna and add us to your toolbar.

From: Hiscock, Larry
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2012 11:52 AM
To: 'redistricting2012@minneapolis.gov'
Cc: 'Steven.Hogan@ci.minneapolis.mn.us'; 'don.samuels@ci.minneapolis.mn.us'; 'Cuff, Monique M.'; 'mthompson@cinequipt.com'; 'lgoddard@srfconsulting.com'; 'fppeters@yahoo.com'; 'aster.mulu@gmail.com'; 'kchatman@visi.com'; 'Malik Holt-Shabazz'; 'Malik Holt'; Sitati, Nelima; 'mmcdonell.mm@gmail.com'; 'lashene@yahoo.com'; 'bjkamba@gmail.com'; 'karia@bitstream.net'
Subject: Harrison Neighborhood Association Public Comment

March 1st, 2012

Minneapolis Redistricting Group,

c/o City Clerks Office
Room 304 City Hall
350 South 5th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Redistricting Group Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide public comment on draft Ward maps. The Harrison Neighborhood Association is the official citizen participation organization representing the Harrison neighborhood. Harrison neighborhood's population is approximately 3,200, The Harrison Neighborhood Association is committed to promoting racial and economic equity. There are deep concerns about the draft Ward Boundaries that will split a low-income neighborhood in half.

We offer the attached map as an alternative. It requires minor block shifts to address our concerns: http://localdistrictbuilder.drawminnesota.org/districtmapping/plan/468/view/.

Harrison Neighborhood Association hosted a community information session. Residents from both sides of the proposed boundary line attended the meeting. Residents were united behind the following:

1. **Residents said "Keep Harrison Whole!"** The neighborhood should not be divided. Harrison is a small neighborhood and a split would be harmful to election turnout, dilute the voting base, and marginalize a low-income neighborhood.

    a. Harrison has historically been a single precinct. This has made election time, primaries and the caucus process a community building activity that has strengthened neighborhood identity.
    b. Residents are able to vouch for neighbors, family and friends without additional logistical challenge.
    c. Harrison is a small neighborhood. Cracking up the community would negatively impact the voting power and ability of area residents to secure representation of their choice.
    d. The Draft Ward Maps violates the Charter Commission principles to guide the redistricting process by: 1) Harrison residents identify with North Minneapolis and Ward 5. There is a common ethnic heritage and community story. This is not true for Harrison the communities in Ward 7 and 2) Makes a drastic Ward change negatively impacting a geographically and socially isolated neighborhood.

2. **Harrison should remain in Ward 5!** Residents want a fair opportunity to elect a representative of their choice. The Federal law requires that racial and language minorities have a fair opportunity to elect representatives of their choice. **This action dilutes community voting power to raise issues, secure representation and elect a candidate of their choice.** This action would almost entirely disenfranchise 1,500 residents that would be moved into Ward 7. It would also marginalize the voice of 1,700 residents that would remain in Ward 5. Harrison's Northern boundary is a 4-lane highway. Harrison shares demographic and social issue priorities with North Minneapolis in Ward 5, but has unique place based issues that require the neighborhood voting base remain intact.

Demographics	**Harrison Neighborhood**	**Near North Community Ward 5**	**Calhoun Isles Community Ward 7**
African American	39.6%	52.4%	3.4%
White	28.9%	17.5%	86.4%
Asian	17.5%	14.9%	3.6%
Hispanic/Latino	9.1%	8.5%	3.5%
Median Household Income	$38,045	$32,413	$64,992
Quick Comparison	**People of Color: 71.1%** **White: 28.9%**	**People of Color: 85.1%** **White: 14.9%**	**People of Color: 13.6%** **White: 86.4%**

3. **Ensure Northside Representation of Northside Opportunity!** Contiguous land with similar zoning should be in the same Ward. Ward lines should not create islands disconnected from populations they are intended to benefit.

    a. Residential and job producing areas in Basset Creek Valley should be in the 5th Ward because the residential and business areas share a common history with North Minneapolis and directly connected to each other. The proposed draft maps peel away residential and business areas from North Minnepolis.
    b. Multiple City grant requests, resolutions connect the commercial and residential areas to 5th Ward populations. The public financing and development goals are tied to 5th Ward and North Minneapolis demographics. HNA proposed maps would return areas and bring contiguous commercial/residential zoned areas into 5th Ward consistent with development goals and local history.
    c. The economic disparities in 5th Ward also are used to qualify for public financing. According to the 2009 American Survey Harrison's overall unemployment rate is 20.5%, for Hispanic residents 25% and for African Americans it is 32.5%. It is specious for Ward 7 to represent areas that directly benefit from public financing tied to racial and economic disparities located in Ward 5. The attached map would ensure fair representation of community interests.

Redistricting is a complicated process. It is important that we focus on the outcomes associated with changing Ward lines. Minneapolis has a progressive history but has some of the most entrenched racial disparities in the country. Redistricting should not be at the expense of low-income community and communities of color.

Harrison residents oppose the proposed draft Ward Maps because of the damaging affect it will have on community, voter turnout, and ability of voters to elect a representative of their choice. Please accept the attached map as an alternative. Minor changes are needed to make the Harrison neighborhood whole.
Thank you for consideration.

Sincerely,

Larry Hiscock, Director

Larry Hiscock
Director/Lead Organizer
612-374-4849

I GoodSearch and GoodShop for the Harrison Neighborhood Association.

Raise money for Harrison Neighborhood Association just by searching the Internet with GoodSearch.com (powered by Yahoo), or shopping online with GoodShop.com. Simply go to http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/harrison-neighborhood-association-hna and add us to your toolbar.