From:	Neisha Reynolds
To:	Redistricting2012
Subject:	Do Not Divide Harrison Neighborhood: We want to be One Neighborhood in Ward 5
Date:	Monday, March 05, 2012 4:01:33 PM

Dear Redistricting Committee:

I am a resident of Harrison neighborhood, where I have lived since 2006. As someone who lives here; I have been very involved in my neighborhood since I relocated from New York.

I am a former board member of the Harrison neighborhood association (HNA). I am a volunteer and a board member at the Redeemer Center for Life (RCFL), in Harrison. I am a parent, a community gardener and a neighbor who cares about the people that I engage daily.

Through HNA and RCFL I have worked with neighbors to establish community gardens and efforts that build and reinforce the social capital of the neighborhood. Together, we have worked to preserve property, confront racism, engage youth and to develop and advocate for sustainable development that benefits all members of our community. We are building the health of our community, one person and one issue at a time.

After years of renting on 3rd Avenue N; In April 2010, I purchased my first home in this neighborhood, on 5th Avenue N. - a previously blighted property, because I love my neighborhood and am committed to its development.

Harrison Neighborhood residents are revered across the city because of our activism. Harrison neighborhood is small, but mighty. Mighty, because we identify with our neighbors and are vigilant about protecting and preserving our neighborhood. We are passionate, caring and activated. In part, because we are constantly put in position to fight and protect what everybody wants and deserves in their neighborhood.

The sad truth is we are often fighting the city and its committees comprised of people who do not live here and do not have to bear the impact of their decisions. I have lived on both sides of Glenwood Avenue. For years, neighbors on either side of Glenwood Avenue have worked together to advocate and assure equitable development of Harrison Neighborhood. Your committees proposal to divide the neighborhood down Glenwood Avenue detracts from our efforts and compromises the social capital that we've worked so hard to establish.

I am asking you to reconsider your proposal and to find a way to draw your redistricting lines so that our neighborhood does not bear the brunt for some other political agenda. Find another way. Do not divide Harrison neighborhood.

Thank you,

Neisha Reynolds
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