From:	Ewart Martens
To:	Redistricting2012
Subject:	Redistricting of the current Ward 2
Date:	Wednesday, March 07, 2012 2:31:48 PM

Dear members of the redistricting group,
I am a longtime resident of Ward 2 at 2624 E. 22nd Street as well as a business owner and am appalled at the proposed inclusion of most of the Seward neighborhood in Ward 6 which is to be made up primarily of the Philipps neighborhood. My concerns are two fold. First and foremost I am very proud to be represented by a Green Party affiliated city council person, Cam Gordon who has done an excellent job representing the residents of our neighborhood. I am active in neighborhood politics, attend meetings and serve on the board of a neighborhood based non-profit development corporation and can attest to the hard work and thoughtfulness Councilman Gordon brings to Seward. In this he is exemplary. The district that he represents is made up of largely middleclass single family homes and small pockets of high density housing populated by recent immigrants. These two constituencies have both common ground and conflicting interests and Councilman Gordon has done an admirable job answering to both. Thus my concern regarding the proposed redistricting is that a council person representing a district made up primarily of low income single family and high density housing will be focused on his or her primary constituents. Secondly I find the notion of aligning city council wards along racial lines in order to create “opportunity wards” to be misguided and disturbing. I posit that most residents of Minneapolis would not identify themselves as living in Ward 2 or such but rather by neighborhood, the neighborhood that we may be born in to but more likely have chosen according for any number of reasons. In all likely hood a number of our neighbors made their choice for similar reasons and a cohesive and strong neighborhood results. To ignore that Seward is such a cohesive strong neighborhood, even one with a storied activist past and divide us in two politically is just plain wrong.
Thank you for your consideration, Ewart Martens