

Menshek, Peggy Y

From: Aariah Fine <ariah@ariahfine.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 7:55 AM
To: Redistricting2012
Subject: Public comment

March 6th, 2012

Minneapolis Redistricting Group,

c/o City Clerks Office

Room 304 City Hall

350 South 5th Street

Minneapolis, MN 55415

Redistricting Group Members,

As a northside of Minneapolis resident, please consider this as my public comment regarding the redistricting map. 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 is a solution that addresses our concerns and consistent with the goals and principles of the redistricting process. 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 Minneapolis.
 - 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,

Ariah Fine

1709 Girard

From: [Jo Lightfeather](#)
To: [Redistricting2012](#)
Subject: Support "We All Win"
Date: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 11:14:23 AM
Importance: High

Dear Charter Commissioners:

As a Native American community member, enrolled at White Earth Reservation, I support the ward boundaries drawn by Mariano Espinoza in the ["We All Win" map](#) - this ward map **honors our American Indian presence and allows us to continue to be represented by a Native American Council Member**. All too often, our voices go unheard because we are the minority of the minorities. The Franklin Avenue American Indian corridor is a source of identity and pride for us. Identity and pride is shown over and over again from archived through to current academic literature and is discussed generation after generation of American Indians to be the single most important issue that helps direct our children and adults to live in a good way. Taking away our ability to influence the what happens in our corridor by taking away our ability to figure out who from our community can run for Minneapolis City Council, jeopardizes our American Indian community's ability to be represented by a member of our community.

This map also gives the Latino and Somali community the ability to have an opportunity ward of their own without having all communities of color compete for the same seat in the City Council. There is enough negative issues between our communities as it is. Forcing this representation issue on us will dramatically increase those negative issues.

Miigwetch,

Jo Lightfeather
Director, Learning Center

MIWRC – Learning Center
Ancient Trader's Market
1113 E. Franklin Avenue
Suite 105 & 200
Minneapolis, MN 55404

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jlightfeather@miwrc.org

[MIWRC Mission Statement](#): *To empower American Indian women and families to exercise their cultural values and integrity, and to achieve sustainable life ways, while advocating for justice and equity.*

[Funders](#): *The MIWRC Learning Center is funded by the State of Minnesota, Department of Human Services, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division, American Indian Section*

From: [Maryanna Harstad](#)
To: [Redistricting2012](#)
Subject: Minneapolis redistricting
Date: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 1:21:12 PM
Attachments: [Native American Opportunity Map.pdf](#)

Dear Charter Commission members,

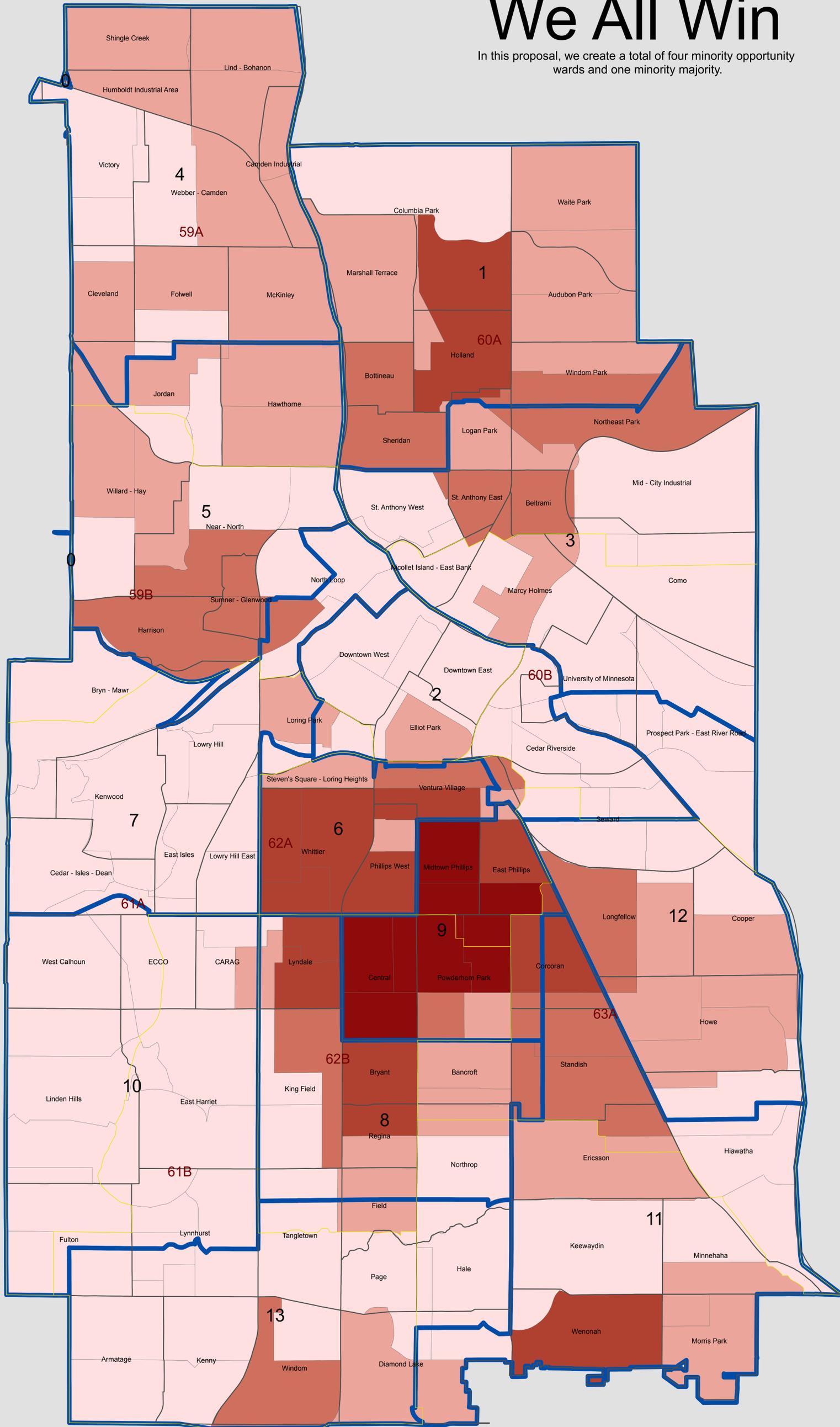
Attached is a map for City Council wards. I have looked at it closely and compared it with redistricting maps on the Minneapolis Charter Commission website. This attached map is an improvement over the map on the website, which appears to divide communities of color, and like cultural interests.

I have lived in south Minneapolis for 19 years and have lived in northeast and southeast Minneapolis in the past. I have talked recently to my council member about redistricting. I hope that the result of the redistricting process will result in wards that are able to be well represented for resident interests throughout each ward.

Thank you for your service in this task,
Maryanna Harstad

We All Win

In this proposal, we create a total of four minority opportunity wards and one minority majority.



Legend:

- Legislative Districts (Yellow outline)
- Neighborhoods (Black outline)
- Proposed Redistricting Wards (Blue outline)

Population by Voting District

Latino

- 1 - 162
- 163 - 333
- 334 - 628
- 629 - 1069
- 1070 - 1586

From: [paul wenell](#)
To: [Redistricting2012](#)
Subject: Redistricting
Date: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 1:32:35 PM

Please keep Franklin Ave and the Ventura Village in a Native population of interest. I support the map that does this.

I do not support the map that put's the native corridor in the Somali population of interest.

Sincerely,

Paul Wenell Jr.

From: [Tish Rivera-Cree](#)
To: [Redistricting2012](#)
Subject: Please support keep the Native Corridor in the Franklin Ave. & Ventura village in the Native population of interest.
Date: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 2:13:17 PM

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

From: [Suzanne Koeplinger](#)
To: [Redistricting2012](#)
Subject: FW: Native American Opportunity Map
Date: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 2:56:24 PM
Attachments: [Native American Opportunity Map.pdf](#)

I am writing to voice our support for keeping the Native community representation within the Ventura Village neighborhood, as demonstrated on the attached map.

Suzanne Koeplinger

Executive Director

Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center

2300 15th Ave. South

Minneapolis, MN 55404

612-728-2008

www.miwrc.org

From: [LeVi Boucher](#)
To: [Redistricting2012](#)
Subject: Native Corridor
Date: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 2:59:38 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

The Franklin Avenue area holds historical value to my Native American Community. I do not support the proposal to put the Native Corridor in the Somali population of interest. This is my home, my community. Please do not re-district our Native Corridor.

LeVi Boucher

From: [Yahoo](#)
To: [Redistricting2012](#)
Cc: [Matt Perry and Karen Heintz](#)
Subject: The March 6th proposed redistricting maps.
Date: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 3:03:04 PM

Redistricting Group,

As a resident of East Harriet / Farmstead- currently ward 10 & 13 I have been following the process. I have contributed via e-mail, personal appearance at the listening session at Webber & via frequent phone calls with commission members neighbors and our neighborhood association. We strongly believe that East Harriet be included in a single ward. Also, that we be included with our natural interest groups and with our existing identified communal groups and organizations- as is essentially stipulated in the guidelines used to govern the process. While the map from March 6th does include East Harriet in a single ward, (8), it removes us from our existing neighborhood groups and associations. The newly drawn ward being significantly wider than it is tall in contravention of guideline 2 also significantly ignores the last two guidelines:

In addition, the Charter Commission has established the following principles to guide redistricting:

(1) Keep communities of interest (a group that shares common interests such as ethnic heritage or specific economic concerns) in one Minneapolis City ward or Park and Recreation district where possible.

(2) Change current boundaries as little as possible

East Harriet has FAR more in common with CARAG, ECCO, West Calhoun, Linden Hills, Fulton, Armatage, Kenny, but mostly Lynhurst. In fact, many of our neighbors don't even realize Lynhurst and East Harriet are two different neighborhoods- the bonds are so close. Ward 13 is the natural fit for East Harriet.

In addition, there was a significant presence at the Webber meeting from residents and organizations based in East Phillips, Elliott Park, Seward and the Riverside areas where there is a significant East African population. They all urged those neighborhoods to be included in a single ward so as to not 'crack' their political influence. The March 6th proposal seemingly ignores their concerns as well. I have seen several solutions, including one presented at the Webber meeting that accomplished all this and met all the other guidelines as stipulated. The March 6th proposal is a step in A direction, unfortunately it is the wrong direction.

Please reconsider the current draft plan and put East Harriet, all of it, back where it belongs- in Ward 13.

Thank you very much,

Jeremy Fink

4324 Lyndale Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN. 55409
612-280-1723

From: [Mark Hinds](#)
To: barry@bfclegg.com; jaybadheartbull@me.com; cohendan1@msn.com; colex044@comcast.net; corbinconnell@gmail.com; xmargedolan@comcast.net; todd.ferrara@standardheating.com; jbgarcia3@aol.com; jheinle@cmarch.com; invisionit@msn.com; kozaknsa@mm.com; barylaz@gmail.com; blickness@yahoo.com; jkmasey@earthlink.net; singdancesavetheworld@gmail.com; jahp2691@yahoo.com; srichardson7@comcast.net; arubenstein@schaefelaw.com; jfschartercomm@comcast.net; gthaden@gmail.com; adosh.unni@gmail.com
Cc: [Tuthill, Meg M.](#); [Glidden, Elizabeth A.](#); [Redistricting2012](#)
Subject: Concerns about how March 7th map would negatively impact Lyndale
Date: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 3:08:17 PM
Attachments: [03.07.12 Redistricting Letter.pdf](#)
Importance: High

Dear Charter Commission and Redistricting Committee Members,

I am writing to express my concern about the new draft redistricting maps released on March 7th, 2012.

The new maps show the Lyndale neighborhood split into two wards along Nicollet Avenue, with the area East of Nicollet residing in the 9th Ward and the area to the West residing in the 8th Ward. If this map is approved, it could have a devastating impact on the area between Nicollet and 35W.

Ever since 35W was built in the 1960s the area between Nicollet Avenue and 35W has been isolated in many ways from the rest of South Minneapolis and has struggled from a lack of attention. By tagging it on as an afterthought to the 9th Ward, I am very concerned about how difficult it will be for community members in that area to access the Council Member's office and City resources. Right or wrong 35W acts as the geographic barrier in South Minneapolis, with limited interaction between the people and communities on each side of the freeway, placing a small sliver of Lyndale with the 9th Ward will only further diminish this part of our neighborhood's ability to have a voice in their City government.

The maps released for consideration at the latest public meetings, that placed all of Lyndale in the 8th Ward, along with Kingfield, Bryant, Central, and Regina would create a much more balanced ward and make much more sense than creating a ward that runs East to West and includes neighborhoods as different as East Harriet and Bancroft.

As a neighborhood Lyndale is often on our own, we are not an uptown neighborhood, we are not really a Southwest Minneapolis neighborhood, in terms of issues, demographics, etc, and in the same way we are very different the Phillip neighborhoods on the other side of the freeway. What has made us so successful is our ability to work as a community to bring all parts of our neighborhood together. The maps released today, could have a serious impact on our ability to continue being a neighborhood that works.

I urge you to keep Lyndale whole as a neighborhood and reject any maps that would divide us along Nicollet Avenue. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mark Hinds

Executive Director

CC: Council Member Elizabeth Glidden

Council Member Meg Tuthill

<<...>>

Mark Hinds

Executive Director

Lyndale Neighborhood Association

3537 Nicollet Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55408

612.824.9402 ext 16

mark@lyndale.org

www.lyndale.org

facebook.com/lyndale.neighborhood

From: [Mark Hinds](#)
To: barry@bfclegg.com; jaybadheartbull@me.com; cohendan1@msn.com; colex044@comcast.net; corbinconnell@gmail.com; xmargedolan@comcast.net; todd.ferrara@standardheating.com; jbgarcia3@aol.com; jheinle@cmarch.com; invisionit@msn.com; kozaknsa@mm.com; barylaz@gmail.com; blickness@yahoo.com; jkmasey@earthlink.net; singdancesavetheworld@gmail.com; jahp2691@yahoo.com; srichardson7@comcast.net; arubenstein@schaefelaw.com; jfschartercomm@comcast.net; gthaden@gmail.com; adosh.unni@gmail.com
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I urge you to keep Lyndale whole as a neighborhood and reject any maps that would divide us along Nicollet Avenue. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mark Hinds

Executive Director

CC: Council Member Elizabeth Glidden

Council Member Meg Tuthill

<<...>>

Mark Hinds

Executive Director

Lyndale Neighborhood Association

3537 Nicollet Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55408

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facebook.com/lyndale.neighborhood

From: [Glidden, Elizabeth A.](#)
To: [wizard marks](#); [Carl, Casey J.](#); [Menshek, Peggy Y](#)
Cc: [Glidden, Elizabeth A.](#); [Gordon, Cam A.](#); [Schiff, Gary](#)
Subject: Re: redistricting
Date: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 3:32:04 PM

Forwarded to clerk

Elizabeth Glidden
Office - (612) 673-2208

Sent from my iPad

On Mar 7, 2012, at 3:25 PM, "wizard marks" <wizardmarks@q.com> wrote:

Members,
Please convey this to the redistricting commission ASAP. (I can't find their email addy.)

First, it concentrates poverty into one ward. Is that the intention If so, the blighters should be horse whipped.

Second, it breaks up the traditional African American stronghold. We still need that--or rather we need that more than ever. Obviously not a good idea.

Third, it puts the heart of the Eighth ward, Sabathani, in the ninth ward.

Fourth, it takes Field neighborhood out of the ward. Field is the home of the African American middle class.

For the last forty years I have lived in the eighth ward. Until the last redistricting in 2002, I was in the middle of the eighth. Now I've been thrown into the ninth and I strenuously object to that.

This will not do.



Harrison Neighborhood Association

March 7, 2012

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

Redistricting Group Members:

Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication on this complicated and incredibly important process. The March 6 Draft Ward Maps posted on the City of Minneapolis website represent very positive progress. We understand that this map is not final. Therefore we want to impress upon you a few points.

1. **Keep Harrison Whole!** Harrison is a small community and splitting the neighborhood in half would dilute the voting power of the community. It also would result in precinct changes moving Harrison delegates to other precincts. The consequence is that delegates from Harrison would lose their place and not be seated. This would be another level of disenfranchisement on top of losing their ability to secure representation of their choice. **Thank you for keeping Harrison whole.**
2. **Harrison should remain in Ward 5!** Residents want a fair opportunity to elect a representative of choice and ensure that issues affecting them would be addressed. Federal Law requires that racial and language minorities have a fair opportunity to elect representatives of their choice. **Thank you for keeping Harrison in the 5th Ward.**
3. **Ensure Northside Representation of Northside Opportunity!** Contiguous land with similar zoning should be in the same Ward. The March 6 Draft Ward Map is a significant improvement returning the Harrison business community back to the 5th Ward. It also includes the contiguous land of the Minneapolis Impound Lot that is only accessible through Harrison and North Minneapolis. This is a significant and fair improvement. The Ward 5 Line should be extended down further to include all similarly zoned land (commercial/office/residential).

Explanations:

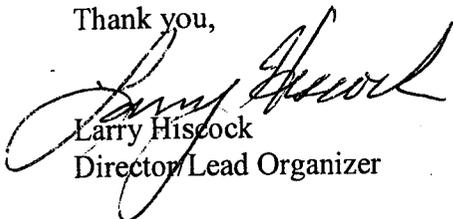
503 Irving Avenue North, Minneapolis, MN 55405 o: 612-374-4849, f: 612-374-9777

www.hnampls.org

- a. Residential and job producing areas in Bassett Creek Valley should be in the 5th Ward because the residential and business areas share a common history and zoning with North Minneapolis and are directly connected to one another. The lands are not directly accessible to Bryn Mawr or 7th Ward residents because of a 40 acre green space buffer.
- b. City requests for public funding connects the commercial and residential areas in Bassett Creek Valley to 5th Ward demographics. Specifically:
 - i. All of Bassett Creek Valley was included in the North Minneapolis Empowerment Zone with the explicit purpose of benefiting North Minneapolis.
 - ii. City of Minneapolis funding requests must demonstrate need. North Minneapolis homicide rates have been used in grants along with economic disparities to secure predevelopment dollars in Bassett Creek Valley. Linking future employment with the North Minneapolis is also referenced as a reason. Based on the grants we have read, there has been no reference to Bryn Mawr demographics or Ward 7 demographics.
 - iii. Ward 5 disparities are used to secure public financing, but current Ward lines deny 5th Ward voters direct and fair representation on lands contiguous to their ward.
 - iv. Including the contiguous lands in 5th Ward would be a minor line change that would be population neutral.
 - v. This request does not violate the intent of the neighborhood boundary principle. The purpose of aligning Ward lines with neighborhood boundaries is to avoid splitting communities, diluting voting capacity, and/or undermining community cohesion. Connecting Northside opportunity to Northside representation has not impact on the voting capacity, residential boundaries or social cohesion of any neighborhood in 7th Ward.

Redistricting is a complicated process. We must focus on the outcomes associated with changing Ward lines. There have been concerns about concentrating poverty in Ward 5. The solution is keep 5th Ward communities united with opportunity areas like Bassett Creek Valley.

Thank you,



Larry Hiscock
Director/Lead Organizer