From: bobhulteen@aol.com
To: Redistricting2012
Subject: the new maps
Date: Thursday, March 08, 2012 9:20:39 AM

Greetings!

I understand that it is still possible to comment on the proposed redistricted ward maps. I'd like to do so, but first want to thank everyone involved in what must be a challenge of the highest magnitude. I recognize it is not easy, and trust that all was done with good intent.

My immediate response to having Seward split into two wards is disappointment. Now, I live in the small section of Seward that has been redistricted out of the old SD62 and into the new SD60 (which is basically the old SD59). I would have prefered to remain in the old 62, as my most significant political relationships are there, but I understand that one cannot always stay with one's allies.

Now, I feel like historic relationships are also being split on city council. Some folks are still in Ward 2; many others are shifted to Ward 6.

Had only one of these shifts taken place, I probably wouldn't respond. But, since both have, and since this redistricting map came out second, I am responding to your request for comment.

Please keep some integrity to the Seward neighborhood.

I believe that there is good in building new relationships, and I think the new maps will do that to some degree. To the extent that these relationships will mean a more multicultural/multiethnic set of political relationships, I am appreciative.

Looking at the two redistricing efforts, however, I am concerned that this politically active neighborhood is being split up. I would hate to think that the fact that it could be retribution against the one neighborhood that elected a member to the City Council from a party other than the DFL. While it does keep Councilman Gordon in Ward 2, it does significantly shift his base outside of that ward. (I do want to say here that I didn't support Cam Gordon in his first election, but did in his re-election.)

There may indeed be good in the new shift, but I am not convinced. If this move is to be made, please help the residents understand the benefits of dividing a neighborhood that had been unified in its political districts -- both legislative and city -- and splitting it up. I doubt that this is the best interests of the city, but would be open to the discussion.

At this moment, however, I would need to speak against the redistricting effort for my politcally active neighborhood.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond.
Sincerely,
Bob Hulteen
2604 East 22nd Street
Minneapollis