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CITY CLERK  
DEPARTMENT

March 12, 2012

Redistricting Group  
c/o City Clerk's Office; Attn: Peggy Menshek  
Room 304 City Hall  
350 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Dear Members:

Thank you for reviewing our previous letter which addressed our concerns regarding the February 15 redistricting draft map as it pertains to the Elliot Park Neighborhood. We were pleased to note that the new March 7 draft map moved the southern boundary of Ward 3 north in order to retain the natural Elliot Park Neighborhood boundary in Ward 7 along 6<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Streets as we requested. Thank you for making that adjustment and for keeping Hennepin County Medical Center intact in Ward 7.

We are concerned, however, with additional changes that have been made as they appear on the newest redistricting map and we would like to again request that the Elliot Park Neighborhood remain intact within Ward 7. Elliot Park is one of the most demographically diverse neighborhoods in the city. Neighborhood volunteers strive to maintain a mix of incomes and housing opportunities and to proactively guard this diversity from gentrification. Future economic development of this neighborhood is closely tied, as well, to the geography and fortunes of the neighboring downtown core and its adjacent neighbors. Elliot Park shares a long standing affiliation with other core downtown neighborhoods, such as Loring Park, and with a council person who is well versed in downtown core issues. The density, the daily population swells and the vagaries of downtown life are very different from the issues of south residential Minneapolis neighborhoods.

The newly proposed map, in contrast, splits the southern and eastern parts of Elliot Park Neighborhood from their natural contiguous neighbors. Under this proposal they are severed by wide interstate canyons that physically distance them from their new ward and neighborhoods (Cedar Riverside, Ventura Village, Seward and Phillips West). This severely fractures our neighborhood identity and moves a disproportionately large number of residents into another ward. Example: 10 of 12 EPNI Board members would then be separated into Ward 6--seven of those 10 board members are residents and three represent institutions.

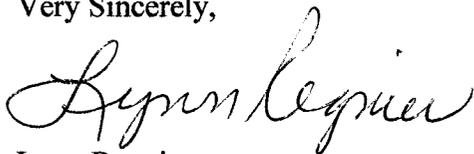
719 10th Street South  
Minneapolis, MN 55404  
612-335-5846  
[www.elliotpark.org](http://www.elliotpark.org)

Elliot Park Neighborhood, Inc. (EPNI) has worked for 35 years to empower community members by engaging them in the development of social, economic and housing initiatives to effect long term equitable change that benefits everyone who lives and works in the neighborhood. We do not think it is an advantage, therefore, for a number of our community constituents to be disenfranchised from the shared goals and vision of their Elliot Park neighbors.

Additionally, many nonprofit institutions, social services and other care centers are located in Elliot Park and we all work closely together to improve community life. Recent collaborations include partnerships to enhance the Chicago Avenue Reconstruction, the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Redesign and the ongoing work of the Liveability Task Force. The new proposed map separates working partners from their shared interests throughout the neighborhood. It creates the same gulf as described for the residential base, compounds confusion and undermines cohesive collaborations. Severed legislatively would be: Minnesota Teen Challenge, Benedictine Care Center of Minneapolis, parts of North Central University, Augustana Care Center, Minnesota Aids Project, Andrew Residence, Park Elder Residence, Catholic Charities and two major MPHA residences.

Again, EPNI respectfully asks the Redistricting Group to maintain the geographic, historic and demographic integrity of the neighborhood and allow Elliot Park Neighborhood to remain wholly within the boundaries of Ward 7.

Very Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lynn Regnier". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "L".

Lynn Regnier  
Executive Director