

Menshek, Peggy Y

From: csmith@citolink.com
Sent: Saturday, March 17, 2012 12:18 PM
To: Redistricting2012
Subject: Comments for Redistricting Public Hearing

Cecil Smith
1600 3rd St NE
Minneapolis, MN 55413

RE: WARD 6 PROPOSED BOUNDARIES

I am writing to express concerns regarding proposed the radical changes to the 6th Ward boundaries. As an active business owner and community member in this Ward I am very troubled to see that an opportunity is being missed to connect more of the Native American community with our Ward which now has the American Indian Cultural Corridor as new centerpiece of the cultural life of the Ward.

The new boundaries will also radically shift the ethnic composition of Ward 6, and weaken the opportunity for Native American concerns to be heard in our community. I believe the proposed Ward boundaries for 6 and 9 take us in a direction of representation that is not helpful for the integration and racial harmony of our City, nor do anything to address the historical inequities for some of our most marginalized citizens.

I love the diversity of our city, especially in the existing Ward 6, please make sure that every minority group has an opportunity for a voice in their Ward.

Please reconsider the proposed Ward 6 and Ward 9 boundaries to follow the principles established by the Charter Commission, that is keep communities of interest in one Minneapolis City ward where possible and Change current boundaries as little as possible.

Thank you,

Cecil Smith