We purchased our home on Oakland Ave in May 1968 - 44 years ago. Our neighborhood was not as welcoming to black people as they are now. We experienced white flight to the suburbs when blacks moved in.

The eighth ward has changed significantly since then. It is my belief, that through the formations of coalitions of like minded people and hard work we celebrated the election of the first black mayor in Minnesota and a Black senator all from the eighth ward.

Redistricting will cause us to lose many of our major neighborhood institutions specifically Sabathani Community Center, Spokesmen Black community newspaper & Field, Central & Powderhorn Communities. These institutions and ~~com~~ neighborhoods have been part of the voice, strength and power of the eighth ward and the Afro American community.

This Ward has always been known as the heart of the Southside black community. thus, when you remove most of ~~their~~ institutions that serve as the glue that holds this community together, you destroy the cohesiveness we have worked so hard to achieve.

Sincerely

Doris Christopher

I am a member of several neighborhood groups