

Menshek, Peggy Y

From: Jennifer Godinez <jgodinez@mmep.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2012 1:01 PM
To: Redistricting2012
Subject: Comment Regarding Minneapolis Redistricting 2012
Attachments: WeAllWin.Support.pdf

Importance: High

Please consider this letter in support of the "We All Win" map proposal.

Thank you,

Jennifer Godinez, Leader with more than 13 years of nonprofit and community involvement in South Minneapolis

**REDISTRICTING: A PROCESS THAT SHOULD FULFILL
MINNEAPOLIS' PROMISE OF A MORE INCLUSIVE DEMOCRACY**

March 22, 2012

Minneapolis Redistricting Members

To the Minneapolis Redistricting 2012 Members:

My name is Jennifer Godinez and I am the Associate Director of the Minnesota Minority Education Partnership. For over ten years, I have been very active in establishing several key nonprofit organizations such as the Latino Economic Development Center (LEDC), El Colegio Charter School, La Escuelita youth-serving agency, and the Latino Scholarship Fund (LSF) of Minnesota.

LEDC, specifically, is located in the Midtown-Phillips area-an area that will be deeply affected by your decisions through this redistricting process. I am proud to have been a part of the founding board of LEDC and to see the results from this hard work in the form of a vibrant Latino and immigrant business corridor, development of new jobs for everyone in the community, and newly renovated Sears building – the Global Market, that welcomes all communities and cultures as well. As Minnesota's demographics shifts, it is critical that we showcase and recognize this amazing example of demography and prosperity and a reflection of our state's value and commitment to inclusiveness, equity, and prosperity. *I believe that LEDC is just the start of the talents that the Latino community members, families and youth, have to contribute to the Minneapolis and Minnesota community as a whole.*

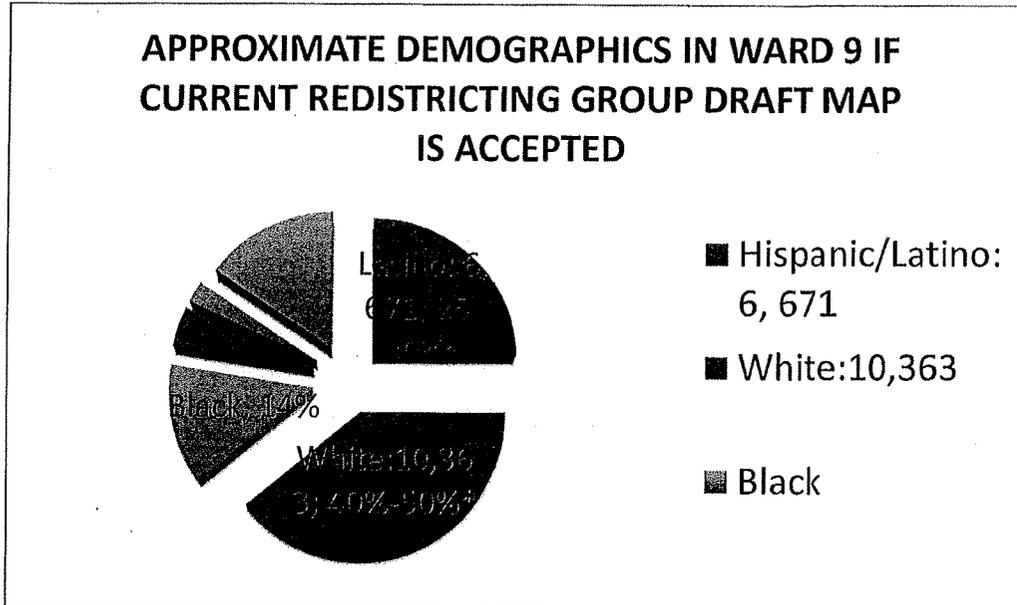
CONCERN 1: YOUR MAP BREAKS THE PRINCIPLE AROUND CONSIDERING CULTURAL AND ETHNIC INTERESTS COMMON TO A POPULATION IN AN AREA:

I am writing because I am deeply concerned that the current map being proposed breaks one of the key principles behind redrawing redistricting lines, to take into consideration "Social, cultural, racial, ethnic, and economic interests common to the population of the area, which are probable subjects of legislation." I believe that that principle is broken by considering the map currently presented at the March 20, 2012 Redistricting Hearing. According to census data presented at MNCompass.org, Latinos make up 10% of the Minneapolis Population, but a remarkable 40% of Midtown-Phillips. This means that efforts should be taken by this process to reflect that the cultural and ethnic interests are not diluted by this process. Which, as evidence of the cultural corridor presents, would most definitely occur with the current map proposal being considered.

CONCERN 2: YOUR MAP POTENTIALLY VIOLATES THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT:

Another concern about this map is violation of section 2 of the Voting Rights Act: Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act prohibits district lines that deny minority voters an equal opportunity "to participate in the political process and to elect representatives of their choice." Essentially, district lines can't be drawn to dilute minority voters' voting power if: – A minority community can fit reasonably in a geographically

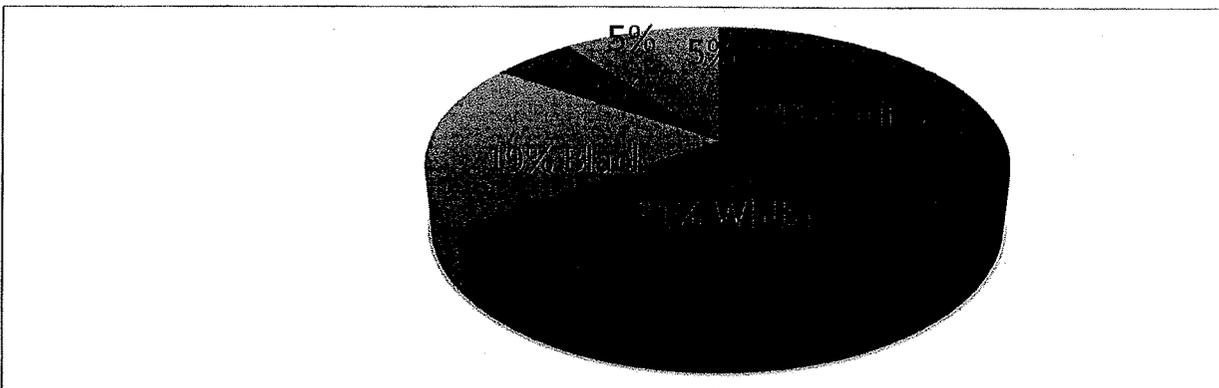
compact district – Voting-age minorities would represent a majority of the voters in that district. The map the Commission is considering, would egregiously break the protocol your group has set to fulfill for this process. (<http://www.drawminnesota.org/redistricting101/criteria/>). **Fundamentally, it would dilute the Latino political voting power.**



I SUPPORT THE " WE ALL WIN" MAP:

For the reasons above, I support the "We All Win" map that has been presented to the Commission. Latinos would have a plurality in the "We All Win" proposal and minorities constitute a large majority in Ward 9. Map at: <http://localdistrictbuilder.drawminnesota.org/districtmapping/plan/582/view/> See graph A. below:

Graph 1: WARD 9: We All Win Proposal:



I urge the commission to consider the "We All Win" map (attached) proposal which aims to:

1. **Keep in Ward 9 the strong ethnic business corridor** that includes the Midtown Global Market, Latino and immigrant businesses, together with Native American and emerging African businesses and community organizations. Essentially, *not diluting* a strong, specific ethnic, cultural community interest of Minneapolis.
2. **Honor the Voting Rights Act** and give Latin Americans, African Americans, First Nations and other Ward 9 minorities the *ability* to elect a city councilperson who understands the needs and interests of this unique community.
3. **Provide the opportunity to increase minority representation on the City Council**, which currently does not have a proper representation of people of color represented for their unique community issues.

Excluding Midtown-Phillips from Ward 9 would be a devastating loss for the Latino community, for the multiethnic neighborhoods of Ward 9, and for the wider public. Thank you for considering this comment in the Redistricting 2012 process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Godinez", with a large loop at the start and a horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jennifer Godinez
Jennifer.godinez70@gmail.com