

## Menshek, Peggy Y

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**From:** David Fields <davidfields@elliottpark.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 3:59 PM  
**To:** Redistricting2012  
**Cc:** Menshek, Peggy Y; Goodman, Lisa R.  
**Subject:** Elliot Park Neighborhood

Redistricting Group and Charter Commission Members:

The proposed placement of Elliot Park Neighborhood entirely within the boundaries of Ward 6 is ill-advised and counterproductive. Elliot Park Neighborhood is one of the oldest Downtown neighborhoods of Minneapolis; its history and relationships have been formed by its identification with the downtown communities and the Central Business District.

What conceivable logic is there to exiling the entire neighborhood to a Ward consisted of neighborhoods with which Elliot Park has little in common? The massive freeway trenches that separate Elliot Park Neighborhood to the south and east have served as more than just physical barriers to the neighborhoods on the other side. The issues, agendas, affinities Elliot Park Neighborhood has built over the decades are with owntown and its neighborhoods, Loring Park, Downtown West and Downtown East, and North Loop. The proposed redistricting appears to be a shameless gerrymandering of Ward boundaries to serve the interests only of particular special interest populations. Ironically, Elliot Park is probably the most diverse of Minneapolis neighborhoods already, with a truly representative balance of ethnic, racial and income demographics. Because of this, Elliot Park Neighborhood makes a unique contribution of diversity to what otherwise is a mostly homogenous downtown population.

True, Elliot Park Neighborhood will remain intact. But it is obvious that the interests and initiatives of the neighborhood organization, which EPNI has promoted over the years as a member of the Minneapolis downtown community of neighborhoods, will be largely marginalized considering the characters and agendas of the other proposed Ward 6 neighborhoods.

In the previously proposed redistricting maps at least a major sector of Elliot Park Neighborhood was retained in Ward 7, as arbitrarily and politically-motivated as the division lines drawn through our community were. The latest proposed map is way out of line with reality or fairness.

Elliot Park Neighborhood, Inc. urges the Charter Commission to send the Ward redistricting for Elliot Park Neighborhood back to the work table in hopes of creating a far more equitable, practical and effective boundary for Elliot Park that will keep at least some of its constituency within the representation Ward Seven.

Respectfully,

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