Recommended Principles for Redistricting Minneapolis Wards and Park Districts after the 2010 Census
May 2011

I. Principles to follow while actually redistricting Wards and Park Districts

A. Complete the redistricting process as soon as practicable after the Minnesota Legislature has completed its reapportionment process.

B. All members of the Minneapolis Charter Commission and the Advisory Group will serve as the Redistricting Group and will redistrict Minneapolis' 13 Wards and the six Park Districts.

C. Reach out to individuals and organizations who may be interested in redistricting and if they are interested in the process of redistricting notify them of all the Redistricting Group meetings and material used by the group. Individuals and organizations interested in redistricting prior to the beginning of the redistricting process will continue to be informed about any meetings or information on redistricting. Use the City's website and email service to send information to individuals or organizations.

D. Obtain assistance of the City Attorney's office and other city resources as soon as the Advisory Group has been appointed to:

1. prepare documents setting out the requirements and timelines for redistricting,

2. spell out the federal requirements, including that redistricting must avoid discrimination against racial or language minorities and must not violate the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment to the federal Constitution and Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, and

3. prepare any other legal documents that are needed or reasonably requested by the Redistricting Group while redistricting the Wards and Park Districts.

E. The Redistricting Group will obtain financial assistance from the City Council to fund the redistricting process and will seek the use of the City Clerk's office, the City Elections office, the City Attorney, the City's Communications department, the City's GIS department, and the Planning Department. The Redistricting Group will prepare a budget to redistrict the City's Wards and Park Districts as soon as possible.

F. Follow the City Charter's requirements outlined in Chapter 1, Section 3 and Chapter 16, Section 1.

G. The Charter Commission will write rules that the Redistricting Group will follow to redistrict the Wards and Park Districts.

H. Because the Charter Commission is a non-partisan body appointed by the Chief Judge of the District Court, and because the Advisory Group will be appointed on a non-partisan basis by the Charter Commission, all Charter Commissioners and members of the Advisory Group will participate in redistricting on a non-partisan basis. Members of the Commission and the Advisory Group will encourage persons or organizations to bring their ideas to the Redistricting Group at an open meeting. If the person or organization can not attend an open meeting of the Redistricting Group, then the person or organization should submit its proposal to the Charter Commission Coordinator who will submit the proposal to the Redistricting Group at an open meeting.

I. The Redistricting Group will represent all the citizens of Minneapolis and will do their very best to put aside their personal biases or interests while redistricting the City Wards and Park Districts.

J. Advisory Group members shall bring added diversity to the Redistricting Group.

K. All work on redistricting will be done in open meetings with the time, date and location of the meetings listed on the city of Minneapolis web site. Proper notice will be given for each meeting on redistricting.

L. Any votes on any aspect of redistricting will be done by the Redistricting Group except for the approval of the final map. The final Ward map to be filed with the City Clerk and the final Park Board district map to be filed with the Park Board must be approved by a majority of the Charter Commissioners voting at a duly called Charter Commission meeting.

M. The Redistricting Group will keep communities of interest in one Ward whenever possible.

N. Subject to applicable law and the overriding principles of fairness and equity and in the interest of continuity, the Redistricting Group will change the boundaries of the Wards or Park Districts as little as possible.

O. The Redistricting Group will hire non-partisan staff to use redistricting software to draw maps for the Group.

P. The Redistricting Group will prepare the first draft map for new Wards.

Q. After preparing a first draft redistricting map for the City Wards, the Redistricting Group will hold at least two public meetings for citizens' input. After the meetings, the Redistricting Group will review the testimony of the citizens and shall consider changes to the first draft redistricting map.

R. Upon completion of a City Ward proposed redistricting map approved by the Redistricting Group, the Redistricting Group shall publish the maps for at least 7 days and then hold at least two public meetings for citizens' input. Neighborhoods delineated by the City's Planning Department shall be solicited for input too. After the public meetings and input from the neighborhoods, the Redistricting Group will review the new

testimony of the citizens and shall consider any changes to the map. Thereafter the map and any revisions will be submitted to the Charter Commission for approval.

S. Upon approval of the final Minneapolis Ward redistricting map by a majority of the Charter Commissioners voting at a duly called meeting of the Charter Commission, the Commission will file the map with the Minneapolis City Clerk. If the District Court returns the map to the Charter Commission because the map was found improper, the Charter Commission shall, at a duly called meeting, receive the Order of the District Court and reconvene the Redistricting Group. Once reconvened, the Redistricting Group shall revise the map and again, after approval of the map by a majority of the Charter Commissioners voting at a duly called meeting of the Charter Commission, the Commission shall file the approved map with the Minneapolis City Clerk.

T. The Redistricting Group will follow a similar process as delineated in letters P through R above while redistricting the Park Districts. It will inform the Park and Recreation Board of the new Park Districts when the proposed redistrict map has been approved by the Redistricting Group. It will provide the Park and Recreation Board with an opportunity to review the map and make recommendations to the Charter Commission in accordance with applicable provisions of the Charter. Upon approval of the final Minneapolis Park District redistricting map by a majority of the Charter Commissioners voting at a duly called meeting of the Charter Commission, the Commission will file the map with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. If the District Court returns the map to the Charter Commission because the map was found improper, the Charter Commission shall, at a duly called meeting, receive the Order of the District Court and reconvene the Redistricting Group. Once reconvened, the Redistricting Group shall revise the map, provide the map to the Park and Recreation Board for its review and recommendations to the Charter Commission, the Charter Commission shall consider such recommendations, and after approval of the map by a majority of the Charter Commissioners voting at a duly called meeting of the Charter Commission, the Commission shall file the approved map with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

II. Principles to follow by the Charter Commission in Choosing Members of the Advisory Group

A. The appointment process for members of the Advisory Group to work with the Charter Commission to redistrict the Minneapolis Wards and Park Districts will begin in early 2011.

B. Prior to the appointment process, the Charter Commission or a committee of Commissioners will adopt a proposed job description and an application form which persons interested in serving on the Advisory Group will be asked to complete. This is an open process and some information on the application form, as permitted by law, will be public information.

C. The Charter Commission or a committee of Commissioners will hold a public hearing to seek comment on the proposed job description and the application form for prospective members of the Advisory Group.

D. The Charter Commission or a committee of Commissioners will review the citizens' input and will finalize the job description and the application form for prospective members of the Advisory Group. The Charter Commission will approve the job description and the application form to be used to select Advisory Group members.

E. The Charter Commission will follow the procedure outlined in the Charter amendment to choose the members of the Advisory Group. The public will be notified through the city's website, and other means, where and when the applications for the Advisory Group are available, the final date applications will be received, and the eligibility requirements for membership on the Advisory Group. Members must be eligible voters in the city of Minneapolis and meet the other requirements of the Minneapolis Charter. The application period will be open for at least 45 days.

F. The Charter Commission may appoint a committee of the body or use the Charter Commission itself to review all applications, identify persons eligible under the Charter and recommend to the Charter Commission persons for the Advisory Committee. The process will be done in public meetings with the public being notified of the time, date and place of the public meetings. The Charter Commission will be looking for persons to serve on the Advisory Committee who will bring diversity to the Redistricting Group, are active citizens, have knowledge of the many communities within the city, and will serve on a non-partisan basis. Final selection will be by the Charter Commission.

G. The Advisory Group is intended to bring added diversity and citizens' participation to the redistricting process.

H. Persons applying for and members chosen to serve on the Advisory Group will always keep in mind that the Redistricting Group (Charter Commissioners and the Advisory Group) will be operating in a nonpartisan manner. Therefore members of the Advisory Group, being an integrated part of the Redistricting Group, will operate in a non-partisan manner. They are citizens representing all the citizens of the city.

III. Principles to follow in drafting the role of the Advisory Group

A. There will be an orientation meeting for the Advisory Group and the Charter Commission, after the members of the Advisory Group are chosen, at which time the City Attorney will be asked to brief the Redistricting Group on its duties.

B. Subject to III(E), the Advisory Group and the Charter Commission will sit together as one group to propose to the Charter Commission the new Minneapolis Wards and Park Board Districts based on the City Charter.

C. Advisory Group members should participate on an equal basis with members of the Charter Commission in discussing and drawing proposed maps for the redistricting of Minneapolis Wards and Park Districts.

D. The members of the Advisory Group may vote on any matter or maps that come before the Redistricting Group, except for the final map, which must be approved by a majority of the Charter Commissioners voting at a duly called meeting of the Charter Commission.

E. Advisory Group members are expected to participate in all meetings with the public that are scheduled by the Redistricting Group.

F. At all times the Advisory Group members will be non-partisan and will represent all the citizens of Minneapolis.

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