

MEMORANDUM

TO: Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission

FROM: Jennifer Lastoka, Community Engagement Coordinator

DATE: December 8, 2009

RE: **Agenda Item #5: Alternates**

Requested Action:

Determine the commission's position on whether or not to make a recommendation to City Council requesting authorization for alternates as part of the commission membership.

Background:

On September 26, 2008 the Minneapolis City Council adopted [Resolution 2009R-402](#) which established the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC). In determining a process to identify 8 commission members elected by neighborhoods the question of alternates was raised. Alternates are not outlined in the current structure of the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission. Since Resolution 2009R-402 is silent on the matter, staff sought the City Attorney's opinion, which concludes "In the absence of any language in the resolution addressing the permissibility of alternates, I believe the plain language of the resolution permits neighborhood organizations to select only eight members with no alternates." [The full opinion is linked here for your review.](#)

Since the Resolution does not currently authorize alternates as part of the membership the commission would be required to make a request of the City Council to authorize alternates.

If the commission's position is to make a request to City Council to authorize alternates some questions to consider around this topic are outlined here.

If alternates are to be pursued:

- What would the role of alternates be?
- What would the requirements be for alternates in terms of meeting attendance, task forces, etc?
- How many alternates would be requested?
- How would this impact conducting the monthly commission meetings?
- How would alternates be selected taking into consideration members appointed by the Mayor, City Council & Park Board and those elected by neighborhood organizations?
- Others questions...