Pamela D. Taylor-Berry, Cedar-Isles Dean

1. How have your life, work and cultural experiences prepared you to be a neighborhood representative on NRP Policy Board?

Back in the mid-90"s, my mother (who was very communally active) asked me to go "help organize" for an event in the Central neighborhood. I did so only because I loved my mother, but to my surprise, I actualy loved doing it! So I became active in my own right, and before long I recieved a call from the NRP with a request for a job interview. As it turned out, my friends and neighbors had put forth my name, believing me to be a good candidate for a position. So I did the interview, and shortly thereafter was offered the job as a Neighborhood Specialist. Being in charge of six neighborhoods, I had the pleasure of interacting with people from various racial and socioeconomic backgrounds, and I consider it, still, to be one of the best places I have ever worked. And, as I helped them prepare the plans which were later presented to the Policy Board, the seats at that table were limited for residents. Now with the opportunity of greater representation of neigbohoods, I am hoping to fill one of them as your At-Large representative to ensure the voices and efforts of our city's residents are heard, valued, respected and implemented.

2. How have you participated in your neighborhood organization?

I have always made the choice to become actively involved with the organizations in the neighborhoods where I resided, and in May 2023, I was elected to the board of CIDNA (Cedar Isles Dean Neighborhood Association). Aside from attending meetings and our sponsored events, I, along with my fellow (newbie) board members, have been dilligently reviewing our policies/procedures and revisiting our focus, so that going forward, we may be more successful in engaging and serving our community. We are looking to make 2024 a banner year, so I say to my neighbors, hold onto your hats! Its going to be a fantastic ride!

3. Describe why you want to serve on the NRP Policy Board.

Simply put, I want to ensure that the city of Minneapolis does not rob Peter to pay Paul. I want to help ensure that the funds distibuted to neighborhoods are not only done as equitably as possible, but are done so in an ethical manner as well. Neighborhoods come in all manner of sizes and need levels (Redirection, Revitalized, Protectected) and I want the feet of the Policy Board to be held to the fire as we navigate these plans. I live here too, and, because, in the words of my favorite, late senator, Paul Wellstone, "We all do better when we all do better."

4. How do you plan to maintain a relationship with the neighborhoods you would represent if elected?

We are in the second half of the NRP, and there are many individuals who are unaware of the history of NRP, and therefore, have unknowingly strayed, or been led, from its original intent. Minneapolis created it to enhance the liveability of its residents, by introducing them to what is at stake in their own backyards, and engaging them in a process to make concrete and lasting change for the better. It was not created to serve as a slush fund for council members or other governmental agencies and/or entities. In this regard, I plan to visit as many neighborhoods as possible so I can learn who they are, what the residents represent to each other, and how they view their connection to the city as a whole. This way, as I review their plans, the excuse of not understanding the WHY of it cannot be used. I did not grow up priviledged by any means (and was the 13th out of 14 chidren), but I was blessed to have two parents that worked hard everyday, so we always had what we needed. I also had what many would call "home training" and this piece of wisdom has stuck with me all my life. "It is not enough to simply have a seat at the table, for when possible bring something to share." I will never come to the table empty-handed.

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5. How do you plan to engage with underrepresented groups within your district if elected?

Being a cisgender female and Person of Color, I firmly believe that representation makes a difference. As an At-Large representative, I would serve at the behest of all the neighborhoods in the city, and be looking to ensure that all residents are not only seen and heard, but included in the plans being put forth. The only barriers I believe in are those erected to keep people safe, and race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identification, along with economic status and religionshould not be classified as such. Those are the things that make us relevant and unique. I will be adament about seeking to help neighborhoods eradicate portions of plans that are not inclusive.

6. Please list any community-based organization(s) that you are currently involved in.

CIDNA (Cedar Isles Dean Neighborhood Association)

7. Please list all your current paid and unpaid affiliations.

I am employed as an Associate Educator-Interventionist with Minneapolis Public Schools, a member of the FAIR Downtown School Site Council, and a Catastrophic Claims Adjuster, licensed in seven states.

By signing this form, you waive your right to raise money, conduct phone banks, and produce campaign literature of any kind for the purposes of getting elected to the NRP Policy Board.

Signature	Pamela D. Taylor-Berry
Date	January 19, 2024