



**Minneapolis**  
*City of Lakes*

**City Council**

**Gary Schiff**  
Council Member, Ninth Ward

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May 25, 2010

Members of the Minneapolis Charter Commission,

Thank you for studying the Minneapolis redistricting process and considering recommendations for a Charter amendment to improve it.

We, the undersigned Minneapolis Council Members, believe that the proposals being discussed, while they make slight improvements to the process, do not address some of the fundamental flaws in the current process. We agree with the Minnesota Chapters of the League of Women Voters and Common Cause that the process could be made less political and partisan.

We request the Charter Commission more carefully consider placing a Charter amendment on the ballot that would give the Charter Commission the responsibility for redistricting. The Charter Commission is the most appropriate entity to lead redistricting for several reasons: its members are appointed through an apolitical process; it is a standing body with a long-term view, whose members have the benefit of a deep and full understanding of Minneapolis; it is not beholden to any entity, within or without the City of Minneapolis.

We understand that not all Charter Commission members may want this responsibility. However, it should be noted that the Charter Commission will have the support of the City of Minneapolis Elections Department, and that the detailed work of the redistricting process may be delegated to a subcommittee and professional staff, requiring the whole Charter Commission only to approve the final map.

We believe that the best way to give Minneapolis residents confidence that the redistricting process is fair, apolitical, democratic and equitable is for the Charter Commission to take responsibility for it. We ask that you give this alternative a more careful study and debate in order to consider a Charter amendment to that effect, to be voted on by Minneapolis residents in the 2010 general election.

Thank you for your consideration.

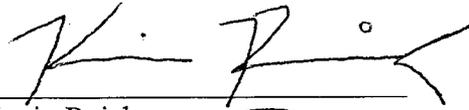


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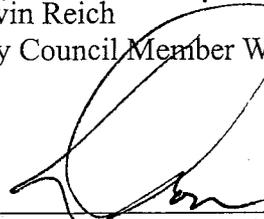
Barbara Johnson  
City Council President, Ward 4



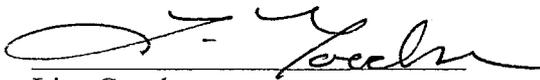
Kevin Reich  
City Council Member Ward 1



Cam Gordon  
City Council Member Ward 2



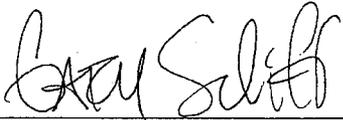
Don Samuels  
City Council Member Ward 5



Lisa Goodman  
City Council Member Ward 7



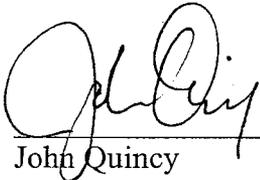
Elizabeth Glidden  
City Council Member Ward 8



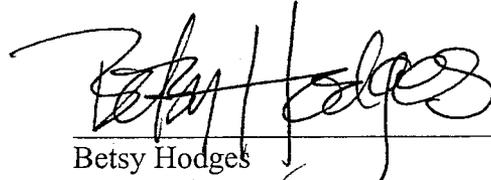
Gary Schiff  
City Council Member Ward 9



Meg Tuthill  
City Council Member Ward 10



John Quincy  
City Council Member Ward 11



Betsy Hodges  
City Council Member Ward 13