

Mr. Barry Clegg, Chair
Minneapolis Redistricting Group
RE: Redistricting Draft Map for Public Hearing
Comments From: Karen Lee Rosar, Vice-President, North Loop Neighborhood association
2 March 2012

Dear Mr. Clegg and Redistricting Group Members:

The draft map issued shows the North Loop (NL) neighborhood split into three separate wards. I disagree with this delineation. I believe the North Loop neighborhood should be united and placed in one ward. Following are my comments:

1. The NL neighborhood has undergone huge growth over the past 20 years. The 1990 census measured 647 residents. The 2000 census measured 1515 residents, and the 2010 census measured 4291 residents.
2. Until recent history, the NL was not really recognized as a thriving residential area. It was considered an obsolete industrial district. We have worked very hard to convert it into a mixed use urban core neighborhood.
3. We have tried very hard to unite a neighborhood that was blighted. We have been very successful in this effort.
4. Most of the residents of the NL have lived here less than 10 years. We are challenged with uniting new residents in the North Loop neighborhood. We are challenged with creating an identity for the neighborhood and its residents.
5. Splitting the NL into 3 wards will create:
 - a. Leadership confusion at city hall for our residents.
 - b. Will strain neighborhood resources to connect with councilmembers and city departments in a meaningful way.
 - c. Splinter our neighborhood identity.
 - d. Create significant election voter confusion.

We have been challenged in the North Loop neighborhood to create a community where there once was none. We have been very successful, but the work has just begun. Please do not disenfranchise us by splintering us into 3 wards. Please unite our neighborhood in one ward.

Respectfully,

Karen L. Rosar