

From: [Kasper, Irene M.](#)
To: [Kasper, Irene M.](#)
Subject: FW: CD&RS Testimony on Voter Registration
Date: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 10:58:47 AM
Attachments: [Voter Registration Ordinance testimony 09-15-15.docx](#)
[ATT00001.htm](#)

From: Carl, Casey J.
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2015 1:52 PM
To: Kasper, Irene M.
Subject: Fwd: CD&RS Testimony on Voter Registration

FYI, for the record (see attached).

CJC

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: <cecil@cornerstonepp.com>
Date: September 15, 2015 at 1:09:35 PM CDT
To: <jacob.frey@minneapolismn.gov>
Cc: Heidi Ritchie <heidi.ritchie@minneapolismn.gov>, Marty McDonough <Marty.McDonough@mmha.com>, <casey.carl@minneapolismn.gov>
Subject: **CD&RS Testimony on Voter Registration**

Dear CM Frey:

I wanted you to have my testimony in advance of today's hearing so that you can read my concerns in advance. Thank you for the recent effort to engage with us. It is appreciated. My concerns relate to the precedent being proposed for city license holders, not the practice or priority of voter registration as a civic endeavor.

Thanks,

Cecil Smith
Cornerstone Property Professionals, LLC
1818 14th Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55404
612.730.7887 (m)
612.871.6370 (o)
612.871.6376 (f)

This email is intended solely for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain confidential and/or privileged information. Any review, dissemination, copying, printing or other use of this email by persons or entities not authorized to receive this information is prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please contact the sender immediately at the number listed above and delete the material from any and all computers.

Voter Registration Ordinance Public Hearing Testimony

City of Minneapolis, CD&RS

September 15, 2015

Madam Chair, members of the Committee my name is Cecil Smith, I am a resident of Minneapolis and I am an owner of Cornerstone Property Professionals and a licensed real estate broker at 1818 14th Ave S. I serve on the Executive Committee of the MN Multi Housing Association. I also chair its Municipal Affairs Committee.

The Voter Registration proposal before Council uses rental property licensing to facilitate an admirable, but unrelated public policy objective. I am philosophically very concerned about the precedent. Consider some alternative scenarios where City license holders could be required to do more. Are we going to ask our taxi drivers to provide information on accessing chemical dependency treatment to their intoxicated passengers? Voter registration is a noble democratic endeavor and CM Frey is to be commended for raising the issue. Nevertheless a burden, however small, outside of housing policy, is being put on owners and managers. What is the next intervention that we are going to be asked to perform? It is easy to imagine other admirable public policy goals that have no direct connection to housing policy for which we could be used as agents, and only because we are licensed and regulated by the City government. If this is so important, and it is, why doesn't the government perform the task of distributing the voter registration forms directly through the mail to every address that doesn't have a registered voter? Instead some of the costs of distribution are being shifted onto rental license holders, for which there is no business case that it directly regulates the health, safety, security, maintenance, or management of a licensed residential dwelling. Furthermore, the current proposal means we could

be punished for failing to comply.

Having said that, we are grateful for the recent efforts of CM Frey's office and City Clerk to engage with us as we inevitably move forward to develop in partnership the related policy and procedures to this new ordinance, and a staff directive to that effect would be in order and appreciated. Thank you for your time.