



North End Neighborhood Organization (District 6)  
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March 15, 2022

To: Saint Paul Charter Commission

From: North End Neighborhood Organization

Re: Ward 1 and Ward 5 boundary

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The Board of Directors from the North End Neighborhood Organization has significant concerns regarding the proposed maps Options 1 and 2. However, specific to Ward 5, Ward 1, and the North End, the North End Neighborhood Organization (NENO) **supports Options 3, 4, and 5**. Overall, NENO supports these three proposals as it keeps the vast majority of the neighborhood in one ward. Ultimately, we have outlined our strongest reactions about the proposed options below:

Option 1

- We do not support this option due to the jagged and irregular line that cuts through the heart of our neighborhood.

Option 2

- We do not support this option, given the strange choice of Mackbin as a ward boundary.
- *We do not support splitting the neighborhood in half between two wards; however, if you must, please use Dale and Maryland instead of the proposed Mackubin boundary.*

Option 3

- We support this option as it pertains to Ward 5 and specifically for the North End because it follows closely to our current ward boundary in the North End and, for the most part, keeps the majority of our neighborhood together.

- *Recommendation: We support pushing the Ward 5 boundary south to the Burlington Northern train tracks vs. further East to take from Ward 6. It is an opportunity to connect the southern part of our neighborhood instead of perpetuating our division for the next decade.*

#### Option 4

- We support this option, as the ward boundary varies little from Front Street's very natural and established ward boundary and keeps the majority of our neighborhood together.
- We do not support pushing the ward boundary north on Sylvan and across Maryland to 35E.
- *Recommendation: We support pushing the Ward 5 boundary south to the Burlington Northern train tracks vs. further East to take from Ward 6. It is an opportunity to connect the southern part of our neighborhood instead of perpetuating our division for the next decade.*

#### Option 5

- We support this option as the ward boundary varies little from Front Street's very natural ward boundary and keeps the majority of our neighborhood together.
- We do not support pushing the ward boundary north on Sylvan and across Maryland to 35E.
- *Recommendation: We support pushing the Ward 5 boundary south to the Burlington Northern train tracks vs. further East to take from Ward 6. It is an opportunity to connect the southern part of our neighborhood instead of perpetuating our division for the next decade.*

Quick facts about our neighborhood and our neighbors:

- 67% are communities of color
- 63% of our neighbors moved in after 2010.
- 54% are renters
- 50% of our neighbors speak a language other than English in their home
- 43% of our residents earn less than \$35K, 28% lives below the poverty line
- 31% of the residents were foreign-born
- 16% have a four-year degree or higher

In the Final Order, the Redistricting Panel noted our increased BIPOC population *drove the population growth in Minnesota*. They exclusively state, "This growth is reflected in the racial and ethnic composition of the new districts, which protect the equal opportunity of racial, ethnic, language minorities to participate in the political process and elect candidates of their choice, whether alone or in alliance with others."

Options 3, 4, and 5 are best for keeping the continuity of our neighborhood, maintaining our unified voting block, and allowing us to elect a councilperson to the city council that will represent our neighborhood. We strongly support pushing the Ward 5 boundary south to reconnect and include the entirety of our community.

Regards:

The North End Neighborhood Organization (d6) Board of Directors:

Vito Sauro, Chair

Alan Richardson Hohn, Vice Chair

Dionne Alkamooneh, Secretary

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