



District 6 Planning Council

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January 11, 2013

Amy Brendmoen
Ward 5 City Councilmember
320 City Hall
15 West Kellogg BLVD
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Councilmember Brendmoen,

District 6 Planning Council was reluctant to agree to a change in service lines to move the entire neighborhood known as South Como to District 10 Community Council. District Councils encompass many neighborhoods, often very different ones within one Council. The purpose of the District Councils is to provide channels for the voices of St. Paul's many neighborhoods. The district councils work toward the improvement of the neighborhoods for all St. Paul residents. They do not typically represent localized allegiances. There will always be a time when residents identify with a neighborhood, a block or an amenity; District Council service lines do not define neighborhoods.

District 6 also recognizes District 10's position of "further marginalizing" residents that live within their boundaries but do not reside in close proximity to Como Park. It seems to be short sighted to think that District 10 only deals with park issues. We hope that District 10 Community Council will not feel undue hardship. District 6 has made it clear from the beginning that funding was not a factor in any decision making.

Since the City may recognize a contingency of residents are able to re-define District Council service lines we ask that any resolution/decision put forth recognizes the need for a more inclusive process, not relying on one that was created decades ago. The process needs to be all-encompassing of all residents in the affected areas, brought to the table by residents, not a City department or official, and there needs to be opportunities for frank, open and honest discussions regarding reasons for change, allowing District Councils the opportunity to work with residents on issues facing them. District 6 requests that a committee be created that *includes District Councils* to update the process for any boundary discussions and/or changes as well as a moratorium on any boundary changes until an agreed upon process is put in place.

After attending the community meeting Wednesday January 9, 2013 and seeing the support for a change in service lines; District 6 Planning Council concludes that a change is the fair and equitable route to take, ***the entire area west of Dale Street as indicated by the map provided by the City at the community meeting held on January 9, 2013 should be moved into District 10 Como Community Council.*** The smaller area north of the railroad tracks should not be the new boundary, to make change that would be discriminatory to the residents in the larger South Como area and further disenfranchise the neighbors. Regarding the actual street; east side of Dale Street should remain in District 6 and the west side of Dale Street shall be District 10.

We do have requests; one being that this be brought before the City Council and be resolved before March 1, 2013. The District 6 Planning Council holds its Annual Meeting and Elections on April 8, 2013 and would appreciate as little disruption as possible.

We further request District 6 and District 10 not be monetarily responsible for any expenses that will be incurred, since neither District Council requested the service lines be re-drawn. We have begun preparing a list of items that will need to be revised to reflect the new service lines. We also request that the Early Notification System, City webpages, Crime Reports, and any other public information also reflect the change as soon as possible. We hope to have this included in any forthcoming resolution or City Council decision.

We are grateful to have had the opportunity to work with South Como residents and wish them well.

Regards,

Ray Andresen

Ray Andresen, Chairman District 6 Planning Council Board of Directors

Jeff Martens

Jeff Martens, Chairman Land Use Task Force

Cc: Council President Kathy Lantry

City Councilmembers Ward 1, Ward 2, Ward 3, Ward 4, Ward 6, Ward 7

District 10 Como Community Council

Donna Drummond Planning and Economic Development

Michele Beaulieu Planning and Economic Development