



UNION PARK DISTRICT COUNCIL

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03/16/22

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To whom it may concern:

I am writing from Union Park District Council on behalf of the Lexington Hamline Community Council. LHCC was established 30 years ago by dedicated neighbors who wanted to improve the quality of life and bring about positive community changes in the neighborhood bounded by Lexington to the east, Hamline to the west, University to the north, and Summit to the south. We are compelled to provide official public comments on the proposed ward boundaries because it cuts out a third of our community and fails to follow the City's own standards for redistricting, passed by the City Council and Mayor in 2020, file number RES PH 20-223, as demonstrated below -

1. **Compactness.** Ward 1 is not compact geographically. It includes far more planning district councils than any other wards. The proposal includes the City's planning districts in Como (10), North End (6), Frogtown (7), Summit-University (8), Capitol River Council (17), Summit Hill (16), and Union Park (13). This will create many challenges and difficulties for any council office to be attentive to the neighborhood level issues with their time being divided by 7 district councils, more so than any other Wards in the draft.
2. **Contiguity.** Ward 1 has no clear northern boundaries and would not allow for easy travel throughout the Ward.
3. **Recognizable physical features.** Again, the northern boundaries in Ward 1 follow no easily identifiable arterial or commercial street.
4. **Communities of interest.** The LHCC's neighborhood will be ripped and cut in half. It will separate the northern and southern parts of the neighborhood. It also cuts out Concordia University's largest campus building in half where it currently exists. It fails to preserve existing neighborhoods and even institutions.
5. **Promote civic participation.** The proposal cuts out key community institutions that bring and unite the neighborhood: Concordia University, Dunning Field, Dunning Recreation Center, and Central High School. These are all key institutions and partners that LHCC organizes with daily. LHCC also was a key partner in the City's planning of both Dunning Field and Dunning Recreation Center. The proposed map takes out a key identifiable piece of LHCC's history.

We urge you to follow the City's redistricting principles and keep our community intact.

Respectfully,

Abdulrahman Wako
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