

Proposed City of St. Paul Ward Maps

Annastacia Belladonna-Carrera <Abelladonna@commoncause.org>

Sun 3/13/2022 12:00 PM

To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission <CharterCommission@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

📎 2 attachments (396 KB)

St. Paul Ward Maps.pdf; Saint Paul Neighborhood Nodes.jpg;

Good morning,

Attached are our submittals for consideration in the finalizing of the St. Paul City maps along with supporting documents.

Here are the proposed maps, in powerpoint form:

<https://davesredistricting.org/join/103ae7d3-cb5a-448a-8475-0e29a62057fb>

We are deeply concerned with the move to close public input at the last meeting. There was no transparency on this body's intent prior to the meeting. There was no posted notice to the public around today's looming deadline to submit maps and written comments.

We've been working with four community BIPOC organizations who've been conducting community mapping in anticipation of submitting their maps and are now left out of the process with no notification. We respectfully request that the public be permitted to submit their maps and comments at least through Tuesday to allow for authentic engagement. Moving maps behind closed doors do not serve the constituents of St. Paul well.

Looking forward to a response to our request.

Annastacia Belladonna-Carrera, Executive Director
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Minnesota

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#OurMapsMN

Proposed City of St. Paul Ward Maps

Annastacia Belladonna-Carrera <Abelladonna@commoncause.org>

Sun 3/13/2022 12:18 PM

To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission <CharterCommission@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Good afternoon, we inadvertently attached the incorrect cover letter in our original submission earlier. Attached is the document on our letterhead and bearing my signature.

Please let me know if you have questions.

Antique BIPOC democracy partner, MN Immigrant Movement, has been try to submit their documents and have had issues with the system. We are working with them to troubleshoot. You will receive it shortly.

This is an example of what goes wrong when key stakeholders and the public don't have adequate notification of such important deadlines - the effect is that their responses are artificially forced and reactive with basic issues like accessing the portal to attach documents becomes an issue.

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Re: Proposed City of St. Paul Ward Maps

Anastacia Belladonna-Carrera <Abelladonna@commoncause.org>

Sun 3/13/2022 12:39 PM

To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission <CharterCommission@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

We've received confirmation that the MN Immigrant Movement has submitted their documents.

We've also noted that in the forced rush to meet today's noon deadline, our cover letter neglected to spotlight that on the redistricting principle of compactness, while prioritizing compactness, we sacrifice the uniting of communities of interest. Our Ward 2 is less compact than the current edition of the ward. However, multiple districts in the Saint Paul Redistricting 2022 proposals - specifically Option 3: Ward 1 and Option 1: Ward 5 – are of similar if not lower levels of compactness as our proposal. Unlike these draft wards, our Ward 2 seeks to connect communities that share a common socioeconomic and demographic profile.

Again, while we were carefully monitoring deadlines on submission of written and proposed maps, at no point were we given notice as a public stakeholder that the body intended on closing this window of public input opportunity at its last meeting. We literally found out yesterday, Saturday, afternoon because of a side conversation with a member of the City Council.

Again, we respectfully ask that the public be allowed to continue submitting comments and proposed maps until at least Tuesday AND that there be a posted public notice.

For the sake of transparency, we are consulting with legal counsel on the matter of how today's deadline was unilaterally agreed to.

From: Anastacia Belladonna-Carrera <Abelladonna@commoncause.org>

Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2022 12:18 PM

To: chartercommission@ci.stpaul.mn.us <chartercommission@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Proposed City of St. Paul Ward Maps

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March 13, 2022

Honorable Members of the Saint Paul City Charter Commission
Via electronic delivery

Dear Honorable Members of the Saint Paul City Charter Commission,

Thank you for this opportunity to engage in the process of informing the drafting of future City of St. Paul Ward maps. We are engaged because not all Minnesotan experience democracy in the same way.

As many of you may already know, in early fall of 2021 Common Cause MN along with two of our democracy partners, Voices for Racial Justice and OneMN.org, were joined by six statewide BPOC trusted leaders to file a historic intervenor in the state's redistricting process. We launch the litigation effort because sadly in the past 60 years, our elected officials at the Capitol were unable to put constituents ahead of self, partisan and other special interests; they've defaulted to the Courts.

To some this may be "ok", but to growing populations of color across the state, this failure has resulted in a lack of fair representation and equitable access to resources - our growing gaps in achievement and other socio-economic factors speak loudly to that. Constituents in St. Paul are looking to you to be their voice, carry their messages and put their interests at the center of finalized maps.

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2040 Future Land Use

