



March 16, 2022

To: Charter Commission

From: Hamline Midway Coalition (D11) Development Committee

RE: Support for Options 1 and 3 in redistricting ward boundaries.

Dear Charter Commission Members,

The Hamline Midway Coalition Development Committee is writing to endorse ward redistricting Options 1 and 3 because we believe these options will support communication and neighborhood cohesiveness essential to business and residential development along critical corridors.

As you know there is significant interest in developing properties along the light rail corridor, particularly at the corner of Snelling and University. This committee has worked diligently to communicate with developers about neighborhood priorities and to conduct outreach to Hamline Midway residents and businesses regarding these developments. Information sharing regarding the developments at the corner of Snelling and University has always been challenging. The boundaries at this intersection have worked against this group and the Hamline Midway neighborhood because the stadium and other superblock development is in Ward 1, while the immediately adjacent residential areas are governed by Ward 4. This unwieldy logistical arrangement is confusing and challenging to electeds, neighbors and developers alike. Currently those of us who live a few blocks from this development have not had a strong voice in this project because it is part of Ward 1. We feel powerless because of these boundaries.

Redistricting options 1 and 3 will resolve this by placing the corner of University and Snelling under Ward 4. Please take this opportunity to choose an option that retains the Hamline Midway Neighborhood and gives the residents and the Ward 4 council office the ability to more easily advocate for development that benefits the adjoining neighbors.

We also vehemently oppose options 2, 4 & 5 because they use Snelling (Hwy 51) as a dividing line. The HMC Development Committee has worked hard to promote business development

and preservation of immigrant owned businesses along Snelling Avenue. Any option that divides Snelling so that it is governed by two council members will further complicate development along this stretch, particularly at the corner of Snelling and University—one of the busiest intersections in the state. Any plan that uses Snelling from I-94 to Pierce Butler Avenue as a ward boundary line misunderstands the importance of having one council member, one voice, representing neighborhood development along this critical corridor.

We respectfully ask that you choose redistricting option 1 or 3.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Nate Roisen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

Nate Roisen  
HMC Development Committee Chair