

December 4, 2019

TO: Luis Pereira, City of Saint Paul Planning and Economic Development

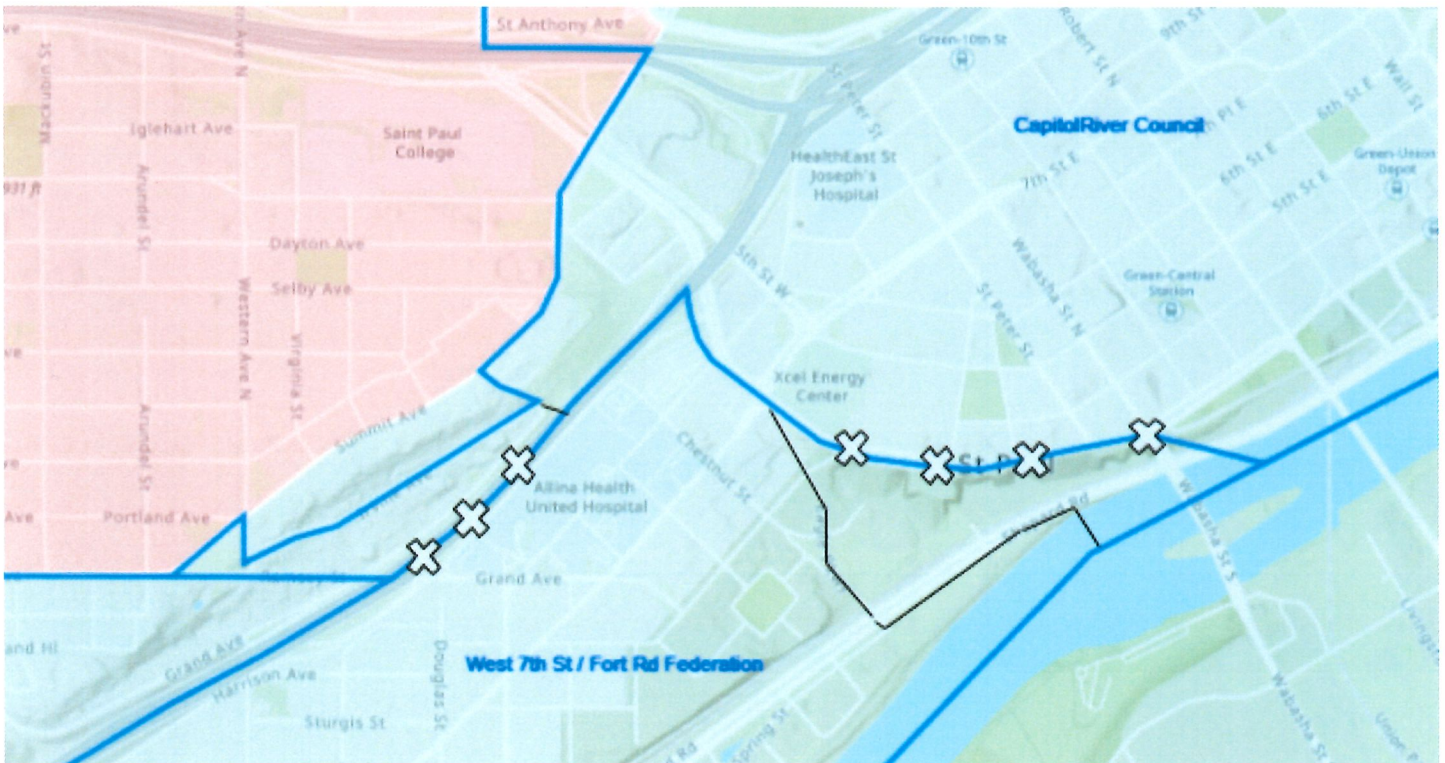
FROM: Emily Northey, Executive Director – West 7th / Fort Road Federation (District 9), and
Jon Fure, Executive Director - CapitolRiver Council (District 17)

SUBJECT: Proposed boundary change for Saint Paul District Councils 9 and 17

A group of residents on Irvine Avenue has requested a change to the district council boundary, so that they would be in District 9 (West 7th Fort Road Federation) instead of District 17 (CapitolRiver Council). In response to that request, District 9 and District 17 are submitting this proposal to change that boundary. These district councils also recommend changing the boundary so that the Ramsey County River Bluff and other buildings on Kellogg Boulevard would be included in District 17 instead of District 9. The current boundary follows Kellogg Boulevard, and buildings on the south side of the street are in District 9.

A public meeting was scheduled to discuss any questions or concerns about these changes. The meeting was on Monday, July 22, from 5 to 6:30 p.m., at Bad Weather Brewing, 414 7th Street West, in Saint Paul. All property owners in the area of change received a post card (mailed June 24, 2019). No one who attended the meeting expressed opposition. Neither office has received comments from people who oppose these changes.

The map below indicates the current and proposed boundary changes. The blue lines show the current boundaries, the black lines are the proposed boundaries, and the "X's" show current boundaries that would be deleted.



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The rationale for changing the Kellogg Boulevard boundary is that both sides of the block are zoned as B5, Central Business District Services, and the buildings on both sides of Kellogg seem like they should be included in the downtown area, and not in the West 7th / Fort Road neighborhood.

The rationale for changing the boundary in the Irvine Avenue area is that the residents do not consider themselves downtown residents, whereas almost all of CapitolRiver Council's planning and engagement activities are focused on the needs and concerns of downtown residents and workers. Also, CapitolRiver Council's meetings are all held downtown, which are not convenient for Irvine Avenue residents. The main consequence of failing to act on this requested change is that these residents will continue to feel that they are not served very well by their district council or by the City's planning activities in this neighborhood. Residents of Irvine Avenue have historically participated with the West 7th / Fort Road Federation's activities.

Here are the primary ways that people would be affected by the proposed boundary changes:

- Irvine Avenue residents would be able to vote for district council board member candidates in the District 9 election and would be eligible to serve as District 9 board members, whereas currently they are only able to vote in the District 17 election and may serve as District 17 board members. If there are Irvine Avenue residents who work in District 17, they would still be eligible to participate in those District 17 activities.
- Irvine Avenue residents who have concerns about their neighborhood or who request a variance currently work with the District 17 staff and board to review and make recommendations on those issues and / or requests. The proposed boundary change would mean that they would work with District 9 staff and board instead.
- District 9 planning activities would include the Irvine Avenue neighborhood.
- Future residents and workers at the Ramsey County River Bluff site would be eligible to vote in the District 17 election and would be eligible to serve as District 17 board members.
- The current District 17 boundary also includes one home on the south side of Summit Avenue, which is in Ward 1. That home would also be moved to District 9.

The process we followed for changing district council boundaries is found in Chapter 95 of Saint Paul Administrative Code. We followed option number 2 under the Threshold Requirement heading.

The CapitolRiver Council Board of Directors voted unanimously in favor of the following motion on August 20, 2019: Motion to request that the Saint Paul City Council approve the proposed boundary changes, and to authorize CRC staff to pay the \$125 administrative fee.

The West 7th / Fort Road Federation voted unanimously in favor of the following motion on September 9, 2019: Motion to approve the boundary changes as shown on the map.

Please contact us with questions or feedback about this proposed boundary change.

Sincerely,
Emily Northey and Jon Fure