MEMORANDUM

TO: Minneapolis Charter Commission
FROM: Minneapolis Charter Commission Advisory Group Committee
DATE: May 12, 2011
SUBJECT: Recommendation for Redistricting Advisory Group

At its meeting on Monday, May 9, 2011, four members of the Advisory Group Committee met to consider recommendations for the Redistricting Advisory Group. The four commissioners who had attended interviews or listened to interview tapes included commissioners Dolan, Ferrara, Rubenstein and Sandberg. Commissioner Lickness was unable to attend due to a family emergency.

Commissioners reviewed applications and interview responses to assess the following:

1. **Diversity**. The Charter states: "In appointing members to the Advisory Group, the Charter Commission will consider the diversity of its membership." The Charter does not define diversity, but the committee members understood that our charge was to be as inclusive as possible within broad parameters, so that various racial and ethnic groups residing in the City of Minneapolis as well as the variety of neighborhoods could be represented to the extent possible, along with due regard for a mix of ages and backgrounds and experience and for representation from at least some of the wards not now represented on the Charter Commission.

2. Knowledgeable about the many **communities** within the City (from the Principles)

3. Active **citizenry** (from the Principles)

4. Likelihood of helping the Redistricting Group proceed in a **nonpartisan** manner and represent all the citizens of Minneapolis (from the Principles)

To encourage members of the various communities to apply for one of the nine positions, we worked to seek out applications from a wide array of citizen groups and community organizations, neighborhood groups, other boards and commissions, and every other possible source known or accessible to us. We made it clear from the outset that with an upper limit of nine Advisory Group members, we could not expect to cover every ward, neighborhood, community group, and so on. We relied on the diversity and the other selection factors developed in our operating principles relevant to redistricting so as to find a qualified group of people who would contribute their skills, experience, and insight to the process. We also considered the applicants' communication skills as reflected in the application and interview and their ability to work in a collegial manner, as we felt that these attributes were also important to help the Redistricting Group accomplish its work.

We all felt extremely fortunate to make the acquaintance of 32 outstanding candidates – all engaged and committed Minneapolis residents. They collectively presented an impressive range of strengths and experience and, as we had hoped they would be, they were widely diverse in a variety of respects: race, color, ethnicity, age, neighborhood, gender, and so on. All were active citizens who understood the importance of acting in a nonpartisan manner. We interviewed people who were former elected officials, people who had been part of the effort to increase participation in the 2010 census, members of neighborhood and community

organizations, young people already making a mark in the community, and volunteers on many fronts. It was difficult to single out nine from such an exciting pool. To do so, we focused on achieving as representative a group as we could who met the qualifications identified in our guiding principles.

The committee recommends the following nine applicants for appointment to the Advisory Group. As a group, those recommended: live in seven different wards (including five of the six wards currently not represented on the Charter Commission); represent four different minority groups or have experience working with different minority communities; rank well on most if not all of the other factors; and are considered a good fit for committee work. They are listed in alphabetical order.

1. [redacted]
2. [redacted]
3. [redacted]
4. [redacted]
5. [redacted]
6. [redacted]
7. [redacted]
8. [redacted]
9. [redacted]