

From: Tricia Ward [mailto:twdish@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 05, 2011 8:26 PM
To: 2011redistricting
Subject: Keep Willow Glen together

Dear Chair De La Rosa and Vice Chair Chirco,

My name is Patricia Ward. I grew up on Westmoreland Drive and also lived in the newly built Rubino Circle neighborhood for a few years before returning to live on Westmoreland Drive. Our backyard fence is the Bagby school border. The border was very disruptive to our neighborhood because it sent kids within the same neighborhood to different schools. As a result, most of the kids on my side of the fence attended St. Christopher's or sought district transfers to Booksin elementary. My parents have always been active in the community, especially with our church and Happy Hollow Zoo.

I have kept abreast of the dialogue at the redistricting meetings with the information that is available on line, such as maps, recommendations and audio recordings with regards to the different proposals that are being made to change district lines.

Ms. Chirco, I have been very disturbed by your continuous comments and recommendations. I understand that you like to come across as the person who "just wants to do the right thing" but you could not be further from that. I have been looking over the maps that have been provided. Anyone who has a sense of history for the Willow Glen area knows that it has been chopped up in the past against the community wishes. To have our community district lines changed without our input in the past was a disservice to us, to say the very least.

Now, our community has the opportunity to stay together; to keep our Willow Glen neighborhoods as whole as we can, and you are digging your heels in the sand and saying "no" that "you" would rather repeat the mistakes of the past and further cut Willow Glen in two. You have dismissed the community letters that my neighbors and others have sent in and continue to speak as if you are "all knowing" and everyone else in the community does not know what they are talking about.

Rubino Circle is an excellent neighborhood to have go to the District 9 area. It is whole, has a school, a park and a library on Pearl Ave. Further, why not have Capitol Expressway whole? Right now, the car dealerships are chopped in two. It is clear to me that you have dismissed this entire area without consideration of the data provided to you with regards to census numbers. This area would take care of the numbers needed for the District 9 area.

I know that you are a nice person Ms. Chirco, but I am very concerned about your attention to following the guiding principles that were asked of the redistricting committee--which was to keep neighborhoods together. Rubino Circle and the auto dealerships could be under one umbrella plus the population provides the numbers you are looking to achieve as I stated above. Why then are you so much against bringing this area under the District 9 umbrella?

If the board continues down the path that you are suggesting, then this redistricting committee is playing the politics-as-usual game. It makes no sense to me that you would lead others on this committee to believe that further cutting and slicing Willow Glen is the right thing to do.

Sincerely,
Patricia Ward