



Armour Hills Homes Association Board

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November 30, 2011

Councilman Ed Ford and Councilwoman Melba Curls
Chair, Planning and Zoning Committee
Chair, Neighborhood and Healthy Communities Committee
City of Kansas City, Missouri
414 E 12th Street
25th Floor, City Hall
Kansas City, MO 64106

CC: Kansas City Mayor Sly James and City Council

RE: OPPOSITION LETTER

Dear Mr. Ford and Ms. Curls,

The Armour Hills Homes Association (AHHA) would like to submit this letter in opposition to the proposed City Council boundary redistricting scenario and map that is being reviewed by your Committee.

This scenario would place Armour Hills in Council District 6. Armour Hills is a JC Nichols development that is a part of the larger Country Club District, which most recently has wholly been represented by the 4th Council District. The majority of our members identify with this District and the portion of our City that extends from our neighborhood north to the Plaza, Westport, Midtown, Crown Center and Downtown. Including Armour Hills within the 6th Council District would remove us from our civic identity and the decades of tradition and relationships that we have built with City government.

Simply put, the needs of our community are greatly different from the rest of the 6th Council District.

The AHHA Board believes that 5 of the 9 principles outlined in a letter by the assistant city attorney, William Geary, would be violated by this map:

Principle #2 - *"Districts should be as geographically compact as possible to facilitate citizen organization and to enable more effective representation."* Adding the entire Northeast and Briarcliff to the 4th District thereby nudging out us and our adjacent communities distorts a previously coherent area;

Principle #3 – *“...Avoid Gerrymandering... by having “compact territory” per Section 82.150, RSMo.”* The Latino community has been advocating to combine its primary population centers (Westside and Northeast) into one Council District for some time, which is a solely political move and has nothing to do with population distribution. Adding the northeast at the cost of removing our members from the 4th District is unacceptable;

Principle #5 – *“Districts should retain neighborhood boundaries to maximize the influence of unified neighborhood interests.”* By placing our neighborhood in the 6th District we will be working with and competing against established neighborhood groups that have never worked with us before and this puts us at a disadvantage with the current political structure of the 6th District;

Principle #7 – *“District should reflect other substantial community of interests that may be identified.”* AHHA is greatly concerned about the increased competition of our Public Improvements Advisory Committee (PIAC) grant applications with a Council District that extends into Cass County and up to Lee's Summit; and,

Principle #8 – *“Districts should retain historic boundaries insofar as possible.”* Again, AHHA is a part of the historic Country Club District, and we as a community identify with this part of our political history that would be taken away from us if this flawed map moves forward.

For these reasons, AHHA continues to support the alternative scenario map that was developed by the 6th Council District community and supported by Councilman John Sharp that would retain Armour Hills (Gregory Blvd to 65th St. & Wornall Rd. to Oak St.) in the 4th Council District. We encourage you to include this community map as one of the final maps presented to City Council for a final vote.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



David Pucci
President, AHHA