

To: Milwaukee Common Council
Judiciary and Legislation Committee
200 East Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

From: Barbara White - Chair
African American Coalition for Empowerment (ACE)

Re: Proposed Redistricting Map

Date: October 1, 2001

ACE is encouraging all members of the Judiciary and Legislation committee to vote against the map being proposed at the Public Hearing of Monday, October 1, 2001, for the following reasons:

1. **Insufficient input in shaping of map boundaries. At several committee hearings the public was told they would have input. Our request is to delay the Judiciary and Legislation Committee hearing until October 8th so the public can have an opportunity to have more input into this phase of the process.**
2. **Untimely responses to public's request for information.**
3. **Proposed Map released to media--Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel--denying the public input and due process.**
4. **Possible questions of incumbent protection through gerrymandering of a number of African American districts.**
5. **Although the 6th Aldermanic District is the most economically viable district of any of the African American Districts, it appears that white liberals want it captured after years of suffrage black people have endured to have it developed. ACE calls on this Committee to restore wards 111 and 56 to the 6th Aldermanic District. We further support the legislation being introduced by the 6th district African American representative, Alderwoman Marlene Johnson-Odom to that end.**
6. **Grave concerns by ACE regarding the voting percentages and boundaries of the 1st, 2nd, 4th, 10th, 9th, and the 15th aldermanic districts.**

Thus far, we find the proposed map to be anti African American, Anti Marlene Johnson and anti the growth of the City of Milwaukee. With some

research your committee will find that the Department of Justice Voting Rights Section looks at the economic profile of districts regarding the protected class (African Americans and Latinos) as one of the "Totality of Circumstance" issues under the Voting Rights Act.

It is becoming very clear to us that this committee is trying to protect the white incumbents at the expense of African Americans thus attempting to impede our growing political participation in government.

Again, we are in encouraging this committee to reschedule this meeting until October 8th to allow for adequate public input and give the committee sufficient time to receive all information to reexamine it's map and do the right thing for all Milwaukee.

Cc: Mayor Norquist
United States Justice Department Voting Rights Section
NAACP legal Defense Fund
Washington Committee of Lawyers
NAACP President – Ms. Jerry Hamilton
ATTY. Vel Phillips
ATTY. Richard Saks
Community Call to Vote
Community Brainstorming
ACLU
ALL Media