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To: [2021 Redistricting](#); ken.opin@gmail.com; [Standing, Brian](#)
Subject: comments on proposed county redistricting maps - D6
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Greeting Commissioners-

I have reviewed the draft redistricting maps for the county and wanted to share comments as a former City of Madison Common Council member (2007-2021) for District 6 for your meeting of September 23, 2021. I was around for the last redistricting and I appreciate the work you are doing.

During the last redistricting, the city changed the western boundary of District 6 to stop at Butler and extended the eastern end up to Hwy 30. The county changed the western boundary of D6 to stop at Blair and extended the western end to Hwy 51 and also crossed E Washington. I understand the districts have not been coterminous for over a decade but I hope the districts end up with some of the same configurations. I will also urge your city counterparts to be mindful of the communities of interest and recognize natural boundaries.

Quite a few of the county proposals create a D6 district that is an isthmus wide district with various boundaries at the edge but essentially cutting in half intact neighborhoods with established ties to surrounding neighborhoods, ie Marquette and Atwood. The plans also separate Tenney on the north side of the isthmus from their D2 adjacent neighbors as well but I will let others weigh in on the best boundaries for D2. I try to embrace change and keep an open mind but most of the proposed boundaries seem truly random and some are quite disconcerting.

As you all know, E Washington/Hwy 151 is an at grade highway and a major arterial that divides Districts 2 and 6 and creates a natural and unfortunately dangerous boundary. While there is a shared school and Marquette and Tenney Lapham are similar in many ways, they do not have the same communities of interest as Marquette and Atwood. And a highway dividing them does not make them 'compact'

I think Chair Opin's proposal is the best of the group I reviewed and I urge you to support it. It keeps the Williamson-Atwood corridor intact. It adds the historic First Settlement neighborhood, currently in the city D6, and expands the district westward to include the southern edge of the Capitol square/Bassett neighborhood which includes some of the oldest and most historic buildings in the city. It also recognizes the E Wash divide (albeit with some apparent zigzags for several blocks on the north side of E Wash) and doesn't cross over into Tenney.

And importantly, Chair Opin's plan keeps Worthington Park and Union Triangle neighborhoods in county D6. The eastern edge of the district starting at Milwaukee St adds economic and racial diversity to D6. Much city planning and active leadership of residents and electeds have worked to build and strengthen those connections. Union Triangle is part of the Schenk Atwood neighborhood association/SASY and has elected reps that serve on that body. Hwy 30 is the western edge of city D6. It divides neighbors to the east since it is more of a

traditional highway with limited access, creating a natural boundary, so it makes sense to me to use Hwy 30 as the eastern edge for the district.

Again- thanks for your work.

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