



June 27, 2014

City Council

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To Whom It May Concern:

I have known Larry Pinkney for many years as a strong, involved volunteer in community-building and community activism in the Holland neighborhood of Minneapolis.

Larry served as a board member and Vice President of the Holland Neighborhood Improvement Association (HNIA) from 2005 to 2010. During that time he was instrumental in promoting and implementing a number of public safety initiatives related to problem properties and to the commercial corridor of Central Avenue, which forms the eastern boundary of the neighborhood. He also assisted in organizing and expanding Hotdish Revolution, an annual neighborhood community-building event that draws upon Holland's unique cultural heritage and brings neighbors and local businesses together. During Larry's tenure on the board, Hotdish Revolution grew from a small niche event that drew less than 200 people to the signature event of the neighborhood, with attendance approaching 800.

Larry also served an important role in training new neighborhood volunteers, drawing on his own experience to teach them the history of this country's social justice movement and the tools and techniques of direct community activism.

In his many years of service to this neighborhood, Larry has been a significant force for grassroots community-building. Both visionary and pragmatic, he has demonstrated for his neighbors and colleagues specific ways to implement change, spur growth and challenge preconceptions to create a stronger and more vibrant community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read "K. Reich".

Kevin Reich

