Dear Members of the Near Northwest Neighborhood,

I write to you approximately two months after we would have held our normally scheduled Annual Membership Meeting. Our initial delay was caused by concerns about public safety regarding the Coronavirus pandemic, which have delayed or cancelled so many public gatherings. Our secondary delay has been caused by the careful reflection of our Board of Directors on how racism impacts our neighborhood and our Organization. The disparities caused by racism rise to our attention in 2020, uniquely and acutely. We can not wait for a “better time” to have the uncomfortable conversations. We can not wait for better things to come. We must enter, every day, into the ways, small and large, that we can work for equality, for equity, for an end to racism, for an end to all the ways where we as neighbors do not belong, or are not enough, or are in need.

Annually, or more often if needed, we meet as members to review the work of the organization and vote on organizational leadership through the Board of Directors, review the financial report, and vote on any additional needed basis concerning the structure of the organization. **This year, we feel we are unable to meet in person, but we have two items that require membership review and membership vote:**

1. **The current Board of Directors has proposed a change to the Mission of the Organization.** The Board has prepared a statement indicating the thought behind this change. That statement is included in this mailing, and we strongly encourage you to read it.

2. **We have proposed two members to join the Board of Directors**
   Descriptions of the proposed Board members can be found on the Voting Sheet.

This important vote will be collected from members by mail, or by electronic vote, and all needed information is included on the NNN Membership 2020 Voting Sheet enclosed. **All votes are to be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 7th, 2020.**

The Near Northwest Neighborhood, Inc. defines its members as: an adult within the neighborhood boundaries who has signified the intention of becoming a member of the Corporation, who desires to see the purposes of the Corporation accomplished, and who has been accepted as a member of the corporation. **If you are unsure if you are a current Member of the NNN, please fill out a Membership Application and return it to us, and we will also include membership application in our online voting.** We’d love to ensure you’re informed about all organizational activities, and invite your participation. We have enclosed a membership form for your use.

We are so proud of our work in housing and community organizing and empowerment, and all of what we do is because of our neighbors and members. We hope that pride shines through the also enclosed Annual Report of 2019. However, as we look forward, we hope that you are in agreement with us that it is time for the Near Northwest Neighborhood, Inc. Mission to be widened to foster an inclusive community that values diversity.

Sincerely,

Kathy Schuth, Executive Director