

Members of the Interim Committee on Extra-Territorial Zoning:

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I live about 4 miles outside of Grand Forks.

One of the fundamental marks of a Democracy is that citizens are allowed to vote, and to elect those who govern them. We elect those who make the laws and rules, and if we are not satisfied with their leadership, we can unelect them.

However, I feel that I have been disenfranchised. I have lost my rights as a citizen. Without consultation with my elected township and county officials, the Grand Forks City Council took control of my neighborhood. The City Council makes the rules by which I have to abide. I do not live in the city limits, so I cannot vote in city elections.

The City Council makes the rules in my neighborhood. It dictates. It is not accountable to anyone but itself. It rules absolutely.

The Council says it is merely doing what the legislature said it could do.

So I ask two things of the legislators.

First, please don't do that to anyone else.

And secondly, I ask that the legislators restore me to full citizenship.

I am not a felon, or an undocumented alien. I should have a right to vote for or against those who govern me.

Thank You

Richard Gross