

Committee of the Whole

May 1, 2019

Subject: 2020 Census: Metropolitan Council's Partnership with the Census Bureau

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: 15 U.S.C. 1525, which provides that the Census Bureau may enter into joint projects with research or public organizations on matters of mutual interest

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Division/Department: Community Development / Regional Planning

Proposed Action

Information only.

Background

Metropolitan Council is a member of the Census State Data Center network and works with the Census Bureau, throughout the decade, extending research and data to local audiences. In preparation for the 2020 Census, the Council, the State and local governments are engaged in public awareness activities and technical support activities. At the Council, these technical support activities include pre-2020 address counts validation and the review and redrawing of Census tracts and other statistical areas.

In March 2019, Metropolitan Council published a preliminary, proposed set of Census tract boundaries for use during 2020-2029. Council staff invited comments during March and April. We are now finalizing the proposed tracts map; the deadline to submit tracts boundaries to Census Bureau is May 23, 2019.

Rationale

The 2020 Census aims to accurately and completely count all persons in the United States. The Decennial Census data are used for Congressional apportionment and political redistricting and are a primary factor in the annual distribution of over \$600 billion dollars of population-based federal resources. Also, Census data provide base data for the next decade of government and private sector survey research, population analysis and forecasting.

Thrive Lens Analysis

We are collaborating with local governments and the State's "We Count" campaign to support obtaining the most accurate and complete Census counts. The completeness of Census counts has prosperity and equity implications insofar as a complete count will maximize federal resource allocations to Minnesota and facilitate accurate measurement of local areas and communities that we serve.

Funding

Technical support activities are funded from the Research Department budget.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition. Metropolitan Council joins with local governments and the State in supporting a complete count in 2020 of all Minnesota residents.