

Committee of the Whole

Meeting date: July 1, 2020

Subject: Regional Economic Framework

District(s), Member(s): All

Staff Prepared/Presented: Michael Larson, Senior Planner, 651-602-1407

Division/Department: Community Development/ Local Planning Assistance

Proposed Action

Discussion only.

Background

At the July 1 Committee of the Whole meeting, staff and representatives from GREATER MSP and the Center for Economic Inclusion will provide an update on development of the Regional Economic Framework. Your orientation to this work first occurred at during a [presentation](#) at the Committee of the Whole on May 6, 2020.

On May 17, you received correspondence from Tawanna Black, the CEO of the Center for Economic Inclusion. In that correspondence, she expressed concern about the process and speed with which the Framework was proceeding. She acknowledged the urgency of the work but emphasized the that the region's racial equity issues demanded a more thoughtful involvement of the region's people who identify as Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC). Both staff and leadership at the Council and GREATER MSP agreed that it was essential that the Center for Economic Inclusion, as a primary stakeholder in that work, be a third partner for developing the Framework.

As staff and leadership from all three organizations were coming together, the killing of George Floyd occurred. The resulting protests, civil unrest, and rioting further laid bare the economic vulnerabilities and injustices that BIPOC communities in our region have experienced. This new set of challenges is bringing staff together and helping to shape the content and approach of the Framework.

After consulting with Chair Zelle, we have proposed the following timeline for the Framework

- July 1: Briefing at COW
- July 9: Posting of draft document for Council and public review
- July 15: Review and discussion of Framework document at COW
- July 30: Close of public review; subsequent review and response to comments
- August 12: Adoption by Council

At the July 1 meeting, our objectives are as follows:

- Re-orient you to the purpose and partnership for the Framework
- Discuss organization / approach of content
- High level findings and issues
- Clarify your expectations about the content in the document

We look forward to the discussion on Wednesday.