

## Community Development Committee

Meeting date: November 3, 2014

**Subject:** Release of *MetroStats: Growing Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Twin Cities Region Today*

**District(s), Member(s):** ALL

**Policy/Legal Reference:** N/A

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Matt Schroeder (651 602-1513)

**Division/Department:** Community Development / Regional Policy and Research

### Background

The U.S. Census Bureau recently released new American Community Survey data that provide the characteristics of the seven counties in the Twin Cities region and the region's 44 largest cities (with at least 20,000 residents) during the 2011-2013 period. Regional Policy and Research has issued a new *MetroStats* report using these data to examine the region's increasing racial and ethnic diversity.

Highlights of the report include:

- People of color have accounted for more than nine-tenths (92%) of the region's net population growth since 2000. Nearly one in every four residents of the region is a person of color.
- Racial and ethnic diversity has increased since 2000 in every county in the region and in each of the region's 44 largest cities. In Anoka, Scott, and Washington Counties, for example, about one in fourteen residents were people of color in 2000. By 2013, it was closer to one in every seven residents.
- Eight cities have gained 8,000 people of color or more since 2000: Bloomington, Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Burnsville, Minneapolis, Saint Paul, Shakopee, and Woodbury.
- In seven cities—Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Fridley, Maplewood, New Hope, Richfield, and Shakopee—the share of residents who are people of color has increased by 15 percentage points or more since 2000.

The Twin Cities region's growing diversity comes from three sources. The region gains thousands of immigrants each year from outside the country—the largest numbers of New Americans are from Mexico and Central America, Africa and Asia (international migration). The region also exchanges residents with the rest of the country (domestic migration). Those who leave the region are overwhelmingly (but not exclusively) white, while new arrivals to the region are more racially and ethnically diverse. Finally, even if these migration differences did not exist, the region would still grow more racially and ethnically diverse because people of color are younger on average (and thus have relatively more people in prime child-bearing age groups). Black, Asian and Latino families also tend to have more children than white, non-Latino families.

The full report, "Growing Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Twin Cities Region Today," is available online at <http://metro council.org/Data-and-Maps/Data/MetroStats.aspx>.