Community Development Committee

Meeting date: October 5, 2015

Subject: Recently released MetroStats: "Disparities Unmasked: The Twin Cities Metro in 2014"

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Information only

Staff Prepared/Presented: Matt Schroeder, Senior Researcher (651-602-1513) and Libby Starling, Manager of Regional Policy and Research (651-602-1135)

Division/Department: Community Development / Regional Policy and Research

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Proposed Action

None, information and discussion only

Background

On September 18, Regional Policy and Research released a new MetroStats based on the Census Bureau's release that week of new American Community Survey data. The new MetroStats, "*Disparities Unmasked: The Twin Cities Metro in 2014*," describes how the Twin Cites metro fares on five quality of life indicators (education, employment, poverty rate, income and homeownership) and how our metro's racial and ethnic disparities in these five areas compare with the other large metropolitan areas across the nation. This updates a popular MetroStats from last year, "*Imbalanced Prosperity: the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area in 2013*." The message of both reports is largely the same: Our metro area is successful, but not all residents are sharing in the success.

Key findings from Disparities Unmasked are:

- Overall, the Twin Cities metro has some of the highest rates of educational attainment, homeownership and employment in the U.S.
- Among the 25 most populous metro areas, the Twin Cities metro has the largest—or among the largest—disparities between persons of color and white, non-Latinos in poverty rates, homeownership, employment and educational attainment.
- The Twin Cities metro's disparities between African Americans and white, non-Latinos in educational attainment, employment, poverty rates and homeownership are the largest among the top 25 metros.
- Within the Twin Cities metro, the largest disparities are in 1) poverty rates and homeownership between African Americans and white, non-Latinos, 2) educational attainment and per capita income between Latinos and white, non-Latinos and 3) employment between both Latinos and Native Americans and white, non-Latinos.