

Metropolitan Council

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of July 9, 2014

Subject: Overview of 2013 Population Estimates

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Minnesota Statutes 473.24

Staff Prepared/Presented: Libby Starling (651-602-1135) and Matt Schroeder (651-602-1513)

Division/Department: Community Development / Regional Policy and Research

Proposed Action

None. Information only.

Background

Under Minnesota Statutes 473.24, the Metropolitan Council is responsible for preparing local population and household estimates for the cities and townships in the Twin Cities seven-county area. These estimates are the official population and household estimates for state government purposes and are used to determine local government aid and local street aid allocations. By July 15 of each year, the Metropolitan Council certifies the estimates of population, households, and average household size to the State Demographer and to the Commissioner of Revenue.

According to statute, the Council must distribute preliminary estimates to cities by the end of May; this year, the Council mailed out its preliminary estimates on May 9. Local governments had until June 24 to submit comments, questions or objections to the preliminary estimates.

Council staff will release the final 2013 population estimates on July 9.

Rationale

Under Minnesota Statutes 473.24, the Metropolitan Council is responsible for preparing local population and household estimates for the cities and townships in the Twin Cities seven-county area.

Funding

Developing the annual population estimates is a regular part of the Community Development Division budget.

Known Support / Opposition

During the statutory comment period, the Council received comments on the preliminary estimates from 11 cities; these comments either corrected the Council's estimate of a city's housing stock or requested revisions to the average household size to more closely align with Census 2010 data. Council staff revised the preliminary estimates for these 11 cities, increasing the estimated regional population by 3,118.