

Other Business

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of September 26, 2018

Subject: Appointments to the Equity Advisory Committee

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Minnesota Statute 473.127

Staff Prepared/Presented: Alene Tchourumoff, Chair

Division/Department: Chair's Office

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve the following appointments to the Equity Advisory Committee (EAC):

District H – Leah Goldstein Moses
At-Large – Beth Ann Becker

Background

The Equity Advisory Committee was established by the Metropolitan Council pursuant to MN Statute 473.127. The purpose of the Equity Advisory Committee is to advise the Metropolitan Council in its work to advance equity in the metropolitan region. The Equity Advisory Committee is comprised of 21 members, including 4 Council Members, 8 community members from geographic districts (A-H), and 9 community members who serve at-large.

Rationale

This action would fill two mid-term vacancies on the Equity Advisory Committee and complete the appointments process that started in Q4 2017. Terms for all nine At-Large positions expired January 1, 2018, and the members for Districts A and H resigned in 2017. A news release was issued on October 30, 2017 seeking applicants for the EAC openings. Nearly 50 applications were received for the 11 positions and all applicants were invited to interview. The selection panel included Council Member Edward Reynoso, Council Member Wendy Wulff, Council Member Jennifer Munt, Suyapa Miranda of the American Heart Association, and Shauen Pearce of Mayor Frey's office. Interviews took place over the course of four evenings throughout April, and the panel made appointment recommendations for the Chair's consideration. On May 23, 2018, the Metropolitan Council approved the Chair's recommendations for appointing members to the District A and nine at-large seats.

During the April 2018 screening process, the selection panel did not recommend a candidate to fill the mid-term vacancy in District H and recommended continuing to accept applications for that seat. In August 2018, Council Member Reynoso, Council Member Wulff, and EAC Co-Chair Nelima Sitati Munene interviewed District H applicants who applied after the April screening process and provided their feedback to the Chair. Regarding the at-large appointment recommendation, in July 2018, one at-large member resigned. The Chair recommends appointing the first at-large alternate from the April screening process to fill the at-large vacancy.

If approved, the District H appointment would serve the remainder of the original four-year vacated term ending on January 1, 2020, and the At-Large appointment

would serve the remainder of the four-year vacated term ending on January 1, 2022. Members may continue to serve on the EAC until a successor is appointed to their seat.

Thrive Lens Analysis

Appointing members to EAC is necessary to keep the committee functioning. The committee is critical to the Council's work towards advancing all regional outcomes, including equity.

Funding

N/A

Known Support / Opposition

No known opposition.