

Other Business

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of May 8, 2019

Subject: Appointments to the Equity Advisory Committee (EAC)

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Minnesota Statute 473.127

Staff Prepared/Presented: Nora Slawik, Chair

Division/Department: Chair's Office

Proposed Action

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

District D – Anita L. Urvina Davis

District G – Sarah Rudolf

At Large – Lanise Block

At Large – Juliana Miller

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 and meet the Council's equity commitments in Thrive MSP 2040. 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

Districts D and G have a one-year term due to vacancies at that position. The two At-large districts have three-year term due to vacancies at those positions. Since January, the Council has made ongoing efforts to recruit qualified members for all openings by reaching out to community organizations across the 7-county area. Nearly 40 applications were received for the 4 positions and all applicants were invited to interview. The nominating committee included Council Member Francisco Gonzalez, Council Member Lynnea Atlas-Ingebretson, and Council Equity Director Mitzi Kennedy, EAC staff liaison Yolanda Burckhart. Other nominating committee members included EAC members Nelima Sitati Munene (co-chair), Tommy Sar, Miah Ulysse and Aarica Coleman and Council Members Chai Lee and Kris Fredson. Interviews took place over the course of three evenings (April 25, April 30 and May 2). Following the interviews, the panel reviewed the application materials and interview notes, and made appointment recommendations for the Chair's consideration. The Chair's final recommendations are as noted above.

If approved, the District D and G appointment would serve the remainder of the original four-year vacated term ending on January 1, 2020, and the At-Large appointments would serve the remainder of the original four-year terms ending on January 1, 2022.

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.