

## Other Business

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of February 12, 2020

**Subject:** Appointments to the Equity Advisory Committee (EAC)

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

**Policy/Legal Reference:** Minnesota Statute 473.127

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Charlie Zelle, Chair

**Division/Department:** Chair's Office

### Proposed Action

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

**District A** – James Ewer

**District B** – Tie` Oei

**District C** – Nicholas Jenkins

**District D** – Anita L. Urvina Davis

**District E** – Richard Paul

**District F** – Edward McDonald

**District G** – Sarah Rudolf

**District H** – Leah Goldsten Moses

**At Large** – Desraylnn Cole

**At Large** – Michael Luseni

### 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

Eight Equity Advisory Committee positions (districts A through H) are up for appointment due to term expirations. In addition, another two at large positions were vacant and need to be filled for the remainder of the their terms.

Since November, 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 25 applications were received for the 10 positions and all applicants were invited to interview. The nominating committee included Council Member Francisco Gonzalez (co-chair), Council Member Chai Lee, EAC members Nelima Sitati Munene (co-chair), and EAC member Lanise Block. Interviews took place over the course of two evenings (January 28 and February 4). Following the interviews, the committee reviewed the application materials and interview notes, and made appointment recommendations for Chair Zelle's consideration. The Chair's final recommendations are as noted above.

If approved, the district A through H appointments would serve a four-year term ending January 1, 2024, and the two at large appointment would serve the remainder of the original four-year vacated term 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.