

Other Business

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of March 11, 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 – Michael Luseni

At Large – Andres Boland

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

A vacancy has become available on the Equity Advisory Committee in district A. Recently appointed EAC member Michael Luseni will assume the district A seat effective March 11 and Andres Boland will be appointed to the at-large seat.

Andres Boland and Michael Luseni were both interviewed as a part of recent effort to fill 10 Equity Advisory Committee openings. Those twenty-five interviews took place over the course of two evenings (January 28 and February 4). The nominating committee during those interviews included Council Member Francisco Gonzalez (co-chair), Council Member Chai Lee, EAC member Nelima Sitati Munene (co-chair), and EAC member Lanise Block.

The Equity Advisory Committee co-chairs made recommendations for these appointments to Chair Zelle for consideration based on the recent pool of applicants, their interviews and discussion among the nominating committee. The Chair's final recommendations are as noted above.

If approved, the district A appointment would serve a four-year term ending January 1, 2024, and the 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.