

# Equity Advisory Committee Recent Work and Draft 2020 Work Plan

Metropolitan Council, March 11, 2020



# Presentation Outline

1. Equity Advisory Committee Overview
2. 2019 Highlights
3. Challenges and Opportunities
4. Draft 2020 Work Plan
5. Discussion

# Equity Advisory Committee Overview

- Created in October 2015 following Equity Working Group's recommendations
- Purpose: 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*
- EAC is comprised of 21 members, including four Council Members, eight community members from geographic districts, and nine community members who serve at-large

# Current EAC Members

Geographic Members	At-Large Members	Council Members
Michael Luseni, District A, Minneapolis	Nelima Sitati Munene, Brooklyn Park, Co-Chair	Francisco Gonzalez, District 12, Co-Chair
Tie Oei, District B, Eden Prairie	Desralynn Cole, Minneapolis	Chai Lee, District 13
Nicholas Jenkins, District C, Bloomington	Julianna Miller, Woodbury	Phillip Sterner, District 15
Anita Urvina Davis, District D, Minneapolis	Sonya Lewis, Plymouth	Vacant
Richard Paul, District E, Blaine	Lanise Block, New Brighton	
Edward McDonald, District F, Maplewood	Andres Boland, Saint Paul	
Sarah Rudolf, District G, Saint Paul	Tommeearun “Tommy” Sar, Brooklyn Center	
Leah Goldstein Moses, District H, Eagan	Mohamed Sheikh, Minneapolis	
	Miah Ulysse, Minneapolis	

# Committee Values and Strategies

- Meaningful dialogue and action
- Community engagement, value voices
- Priority is systemwide change (versus individual projects)
- Aligning with equity framework will guide systemwide work
- The EAC has a role in internal (how does the Council Operate) and external equity efforts (how the community is impacted)
- Support Council progress, make recommendations, promote innovation

# 2019 Highlights

- Welcomed and onboarded a new co-chair, four new Council Members and four new community members; bid farewell to first-seated committee members
- Received community input on Comprehensive Planning Process
- Submitted formal recommendations for:
  - Human Resources' Building Diversity Initiative to expand diversity recruitment efforts
  - Comprehensive Local Planning Process
- Provided advice on staff projects and initiatives:
  - Metro Transit Network Next, Regional Parks Equity Grant Program, Council Accessibility efforts, Green Line service-hour changes, Reframing Areas of Concentrated Poverty (ACPs), Livable Communities Fund Program
- Greatest accomplishment: Conducted EAC strategic planning process

# Identified Challenges and Opportunities

- In collaboration with an external facilitator, Sandra Richardson, the committee engaged in a strategic planning process and identified the following:
- Ongoing challenges:
  - Establishing and Clarifying Processes & Role (how do we work in partnership)
  - Understanding Council Equity Work in Priority Areas
  - Providing Recommendations, Advice & Collaboration with the Council, our Charge
  - Closing the loop – (staff report back to EAC to understand results & how feedback was used)
- Opportunities to Move Forward:
  - Meaningful Participation to Operationalize the Equity Framework
  - Ensure Staff is Supported as they Develop Strategies to Achieve Equity
  - Clarify the Equity Advisory Committee's Partnership with the Council

# Draft 2020 Work Plan for Discussion

See handout of the Draft Work Plan for 2020, includes:

- Support Council Efforts to Prioritize & Promote Affordable Housing
- Support Council Efforts toward Digital & Physical Accessibility
- Support Council Efforts toward Attracting & Retaining a Skilled, Diverse, Inclusive and Respectful Workforce
- Support Council Efforts to Track & Report Transportation Systems
- Support Council Efforts to Assess Procurement Practices



# Discussion

- How can Met Council tap expertise of EAC to inform Council decisions?
- What does the Council need from the Equity Advisory Committee?



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