

Other Business

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of February 24, 2021

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):

At Large – Nichol Ellis-McGregor

At Large – Gabriela Olvera

At Large – Breanne Rothstein

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

Three Equity Advisory Committee at-large position are up for appointment due to vacancies.

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 20 applications were received for the 3 positions. Of those applicants the nominating committee chose 7 finalists to interview virtually on February 9. The nominating committee included Council Member Francisco Gonzalez (co-chair), Council Member Chai Lee, Council Member Christopher Ferguson, EAC members Nelima Sitati Munene (co-chair), and EAC member Leah Goldstein Moses. 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 three at-large appointments would serve the remainder of the original four-year term. until January 1, 2021.

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.