

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 21-5226, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONFIRMING
NEW APOINTMENTS TO THE METRO COMMITTEE ON RACIAL EQUITY

Date: Monday, November 22, 2021
Department: Office of the COO – Diversity,
Equity and Inclusion
Meeting Date: Thursday, December 6, 2021

Prepared by: Sebrina Owens-Wilson
Presenter(s) (if applicable): N/A
Length: N/A

ISSUE STATEMENT

Resolution No. 21-5226 requests the appointment of three new members to Metro’s Committee on Racial Equity (CORE) and the reappointment of six current members. This ensures the CORE can continue to fill their chartered role in advising Metro council and staff on the implementation of the Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

ACTION REQUESTED

The Metro Council appoints four new members to Metro’s Committee on Racial Equity for two-year terms and reappoints six current members to Metro’s Committee on Racial Equity for one-year or two-year terms, according to the committee member’s preference.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

This action ensures the CORE can continue to fill their chartered role in advising Metro council and staff on the implementation of the Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. There are currently five vacant seats on the committee. The appointment of the three new members supports CORE’s, representation of diverse lived experiences, and inclusion of an array of relevant skills and knowledge that will support CORE in its mission. The remaining two seats will reserved will we continue our efforts to recruit Clackamas County residents to support regional geographic representation on the committee.

For reappointments CORE members have the option of serving an additional one-year or two-year term for their second term on CORE. Reappointing CORE members to both one-year and two-year terms allows for overlap between existing and new members and supports the continuation of institutional knowledge and capacity. This ensures the CORE can continue to fill their chartered role in advising Metro council and staff on the implementation of the Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. It establishes staggering terms and allows the DEI team to create a new annual cycle of CORE recruitment and appointment that maintains an engaged and active committee.

POLICY QUESTION(S)

N/A

POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the Metro Council appoint three new members to Metro’s Committee on Racial Equity for two-year terms and reappoints six current members for one- or two-year terms. The members

recommended for appointment, county of residence and term end date are detailed in Exhibit A of Resolution No. 21-5226.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

N/A

BACKGROUND

The CORE is a committee that was created and chartered by the Metro Council in 2017 to advise the Council and staff in advancing racial equity to fulfill the purpose of good government, which is to serve all people effectively and create greater opportunities for people of color to thrive in the region. Further, the CORE was added to Metro Code as a permanent advisory committee in 2020. The CORE's purpose is to:

- Advising Metro Council on the implementation of the [Strategic Plan to Advance Racial, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion](#) and other racial equity strategies and initiatives,
- Providing the opportunity to meaningfully engage powerful community advocates,
- Maintaining relationships and building trust with communities of color,
- Providing a concrete mechanism for keeping Metro accountable to its racial equity goals, and
- Playing a critical advisory role in fulfilling the agency's commitments to Black, Indigenous and people of color communities.

In August 2021 DEI Program staff started the process to solicit applications from members of the public to serve on the CORE. Seventeen (17) complete applications were submitted by community members interested in serving on the CORE. Two community members (two CORE co-chairs) and four Metro staff reviewed and assessed the applications received using the criteria for committee membership set forth in the CORE bylaws and charter. This group presents three applicants recommended for appointment to the CORE. These community members (Tristan Penn and Rebecca Descombes) and Metro staff (Raahi Reddy, Sebrina Owens-Wilson, Craig Beebe and Ramona Perrault) met on October 19, 2021 to identify the roster of recommended appointments. After thoughtful consideration and deliberation, they agreed on the three names to recommend for appointment, which are listed in Exhibit A to Resolution 21-5226.

During this round of recruitment we had a goal of adding two Clackamas County residents to the committee to support regional representation on the committee. Despite wide outreach and a number of application extension we did not receive any applications from Clackamas County residents. As a result the following adjustments are being made to the recruitment process: 1) reserving two of the five open seats for Clackamas County residents and continuing targeted outreach efforts, and 2) shifting to a year round application and recruitment process to encourage more applicants to apply, support our ability to fill vacant seats as they arise unexpectedly, and create the opportunity to connect community members to other opportunities at Metro.

ATTACHMENTS

Short biographies for members recommended for appointment are included in Exhibit A to the Staff Report on Resolution No. 21-5226.