

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 17-4807, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONFIRMING APPOINTMENTS TO THE METRO COMMITTEE ON RACIAL EQUITY AND AMENDING ITS CHARTER

Date: May 11, 2017

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BACKGROUND

On March 16, 2017, the Metro Council approved Resolution No. 17-4775 to establish the Committee on Racial Equity (“CORE”) to advise the Council and Metro staff on the implementation of the agency’s Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (“Strategic Plan”). This resolution also approved the CORE’s charter and appointed its founding co-chairs: María Caballero-Rubio and Sharon Gary-Smith.

The creation of the CORE fulfilled one of the first-year action items in the Strategic Plan. This action item was a frequent request from community members, especially people of color and youth, consulted during the creation of the Strategic Plan. Metro staff from the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Program worked on the creation of the CORE by obtaining feedback from community members, drafting the CORE charter, and vetting it with Councilors and the appropriate staff.

After the Metro Council approval of Resolution No. 17-4775, DEI Program staff started the process to solicit applications from members of the public to serve on the CORE. Seventy-one (71) complete applications were submitted by community members interested in serving on the CORE. The Metro Council President asked three community members (the two CORE co-chairs and a member of the disbanded Equity Strategy Advisory Committee, Betty Dominguez) and four Metro staff to review and assess the 71 applications received using the criteria for committee membership set forth in the CORE charter, and present to him a roster of 13 applicants recommended for appointment to the CORE. These community members and Metro staff (Patty Unfred, Becca Uherbelau, Roger Gonzalez and Juan Carlos Ocaña-Chíu) met on May 5, 2017 to identify the roster of recommended appointments. After thoughtful consideration and deliberation, they agreed on the 13 names to recommend for appointment, which are listed in Exhibit A to Resolution 17-4807.

At the same time, Metro staff identified the desire to establish a formal liaison position between the Metropolitan Exposition Recreation Commission (“MERC”) and the CORE. The MERC Commissioners and the MERC visitor venues have demonstrated strong interest in and support for the implementation of the Strategic Plan, so having a MERC liaison to the CORE would provide a visible, formal connection between both bodies. Included in this Resolution for your consideration is an amendment to the CORE charter, Section E – Membership, to include one (1) non-voting MERC liaison, to be appointed by the Metro Council President in accordance with the Council Rules and Procedures.

ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

1. **Known Opposition** No known opposition to the appointment of the remaining 13 CORE members and amendment of its charter has been identified to date.

2. **Legal Antecedents** Metro Code, Chapter 2.19.030 establishes the process for the Metro Council to appoint and confirm Metro advisory committee members. The appointments to the CORE follow Metro Code's stipulations.
3. **Anticipated Effects** If the Metro Council approves Resolution No. 17-4807, the CORE will be ready to start holding meetings and providing community advice, oversight and greater accountability on the implementation of the Strategic Plan. This will result in better outcomes and greater transparency and community support for the implementation of Metro's racial equity, diversity and inclusion work.
4. **Budget Impacts** The anticipated cost of materials and services for having a CORE is \$20,000 per fiscal year. This cost is included in the DEI Program budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018. There are no additional staff costs associated with the creation and functioning of the CORE.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends that the Metro Council approve this Resolution No. 17-4807.