

COMMITTEE ON RACIAL EQUITY ADDITION TO METRO CODE AS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date: January 22, 2020
Department: Diversity, Equity and
Inclusion
Meeting Date: January 28, 2020

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Presenter(s) (if applicable): Raahi Reddy
Length: 15 mins

ISSUE STATEMENT

Since the Committee on Racial Equity was created and chartered by the Metro Council in 2017, it has played a critical advisory role in advancing of Metro's racial equity goals. As the committee enters its third year, the Metro Code requires that Committees that continue for more than three years be codified in the Metro Code by a duly adopted ordinance.

ACTION REQUESTED

The purpose of coming to work session is to discuss with Metro Council the appropriate steps to ensure CORE is an ongoing and permanent committee. Under Metro Code Section 2.19.060 all Advisory Committees created by the Metro Council are considered Task Forces unless provided for in a provision of the Metro Code. It further provides that "in no circumstance, may a Task Force be continued for more than three (3) years unless authorized by a duly adopted ordinance, which shall be codified." Accordingly, since CORE has existed for three years, provides significant value in providing a racial equity lens for the Agency and Metro intends to have CORE continue indefinitely into the future, staff requests that the Metro Council adopt an ordinance that places the CORE into Metro Code in Chapter 2.19.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

- What is Metro Council's vision for CORE ongoing role in advancing the agency's racial equity goals?
- What steps does Metro Council want to take in order to secure CORE's role?

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the Metro Council adopt an ordinance adding the CORE into Metro Code Chapter 2.19 Metro Advisory Committees.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The Committee on Racial Equity plays an increasingly important role in advancing Metro's Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (Strategic Plan). Highlights of CORE's work from the previous year include:

- Multiple points of engagement on the Parks & Nature bond resulting in the identification of specific strategies for how the bond will advance racial equity goals;
- Ongoing engagement with PES on the Regional Waste Plan and specifically the siting of new transfer stations;

- Recruitment and appointment of seven new committee members representing the diversity of the region; and
- Strengthening internal systems and guidelines for engagement with Metro's programs and policies.

Ensuring CORE has an ongoing and permanent role will support Metro's goals by:

- Demonstrating Metro's long term commitment to advancing racial equity goals;
- Capturing the opportunity to meaningfully engage powerful community advocates;
- Providing a concrete mechanism for accountability in advancing racial equity; and
- Maintaining ongoing relationships and building trust with communities of color.

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. The CORE is an ongoing, standing Metro committee, whose main purpose is to:

- Provide input and advice for the successful implementation of the Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (Strategic Plan),
- Provide community oversight and opportunities for Metro to have greater accountability to the community on the implementation of the Strategic Plan
- Communicate Metro's progress in implementing the Strategic Plan, and
- Assist Metro staff in the creation and implementation of the Strategic Plan evaluation.

ATTACHMENTS

- Is legislation required for Council action? x Yes • No
- If yes, is draft legislation attached? x Yes • No
- What other materials are you presenting today?
 - Draft Ordinance Amending Metro Code Chapter 2.19, Metro Advisory Committees, to Establish the Committee on Racial Equity
 - Draft Exhibit A: Metro Code Chapter 2.19 Metro Advisory Committees