

IN CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE NO. 20-1450 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING
METRO CODE CHAPTER 2.19, METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEES, TO ESTABLISH THE
COMMITTEE ON RACIAL EQUITY

Date: October 19, 2020
Department: Diversity, Equity and
Inclusion
Meeting Date: November 5, 2020

Prepared by: Sebrina Owens-Wilson
Presenter(s) (if applicable): Raahi Reddy
Length: 20 mins

ISSUE STATEMENT

Following the direction given by Metro Council during the January 28, 2020 worksession, the purpose of Ordinance No. 20-1450 is to add the Committee on Racial Equity to Metro Code. 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.

ACTION REQUESTED

Staff requests approval of Ordinance No. 20-1450 to add the Committee on Racial equity to Metro Code Chapter 2.19.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

This Ordinance would solidify the critical advisory role CORE plays in advising Metro Council on advancing racial equity. This role includes:

- providing input and advice for the implementation and evaluation of the Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (Strategic Plan),
- providing community oversight and opportunities for Metro to have greater accountability to the community on the implementation of the Strategic Plan; and
- communicating Metro’s progress in implementing the Strategic Plan.

POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

1. Approve the ordinance as written or with amendments.
2. Do not approve the ordinance.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the Metro Council adopt an Ordinance No. 20-1450

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 and Get Moving 2020 resulting in the identification of specific strategies for advancing racial equity goals;
- Ongoing engagement with PES on the Regional Waste Plan and specifically the siting of new transfer stations; 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.

Financial implications (current year and ongoing)

Staff time to manage and provide administrative support to the committee and stipends for non-government and non-industry members.

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 a 15 member committee with two non-voting MERC Commissioners and two Metro Councilors that serve as liaisons. Committee members are appointed by Council and bring a number of demonstrated characteristics:

- a commitment to racial equity, social and environmental justice, diversity and inclusion
- the ability to work collaboratively with people of diverse perspectives and experiences
- connections with local historically marginalized communities
- experience, skills and knowledge in policy development, evaluation, local government and/or public sector partnerships, procurement, human resources, public participation, service design and delivery, research, education or business
- the ability to represent the geographic and demographic diversity of the region.

- CORE members are appointed to a two-year term. They are eligible to be reappointed to a second term of one or two years.

ATTACHMENTS

- Ordinance No. 20-1450, For the Purpose of Amending Metro Code Chapter 2.19, Metro Advisory Committees, To Establish the Committee on Racial Equity
- Exhibit A: Metro Code Chapter 2.19 Metro Advisory Committees

[For work session:]

- Is legislation required for Council action? ☒ Yes ☐ No
- If yes, is draft legislation attached? ☒ Yes ☐ No
- What other materials are you presenting today? N/A