



Metro Cities Ad Hoc Race Equity Committee

DATE: Thursday, September 3, 2020

TIME: 9:00 am – 11:00 am

Virtual Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/96493328418?pwd=UmNFSHNDVWFadHlOaHhGb0c3bVUwdz09>

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Introduction of members**
3. **Review of Committee Memo (*enclosed*)**
4. **Discussion of ideas for bringing race equity lens to policy development process**
5. **Consideration of general race equity policy for Metro Cities (*enclosed*)**
6. **Other Business**
7. **Adjourn**

September 1, 2020

TO: Members, Metro Cities Ad Hoc Race Equity Committee
FROM: Patricia Nauman, Executive Director
RE: First Meeting – Thursday, September 3, 2020

Thank you for agreeing to serve on Metro Cities' Race Equity Ad Hoc Committee. The committee was formed at the direction of the Metro Cities Board, and chairs of Metro Cities' policy committees asked for volunteers at the four policy committees, with several members expressing interest. Metro Cities' Vice President Lisa Laliberte will chair the committee. A committee roster is enclosed.

The Metro Cities Board set a one-year timeline for the committee and approved a scope of work at its August Board meeting. The scope of work is as follows:

- Establish survey questions to gather information on member city needs for race equity work and current local initiatives.
- Recommend a process for policy committees in applying a race equity lens to policy development.
- Provide metropolitan city perspectives, feedback and support to joint work with the LMC on race equity.
- Identify resources, tools and information that can be shared with metropolitan city officials and administration staff for local race equity work and engagement.

The first meeting will focus on Metro Cities' policy process and initial ideas for bringing a race equity lens to policy development. Committee members are asked to consider the questions below for this discussion:

1. *How do issues of racial equity affect local decision making in your city?*
2. *What factors would you like to see considered in bringing a race equity lens to Metro Cities' policy development process?*

The committee will also be asked to consider a general legislative policy on race equity, a draft of which is enclosed. Staff will discuss the draft policy with the committee on Thursday. Any recommendation for a general policy will be forwarded to Metro Cities General Government Committee.

We look forward to seeing you, via Zoom, on Thursday.

New Policy: Race Equity (General Government policy section)

In the seven-county metropolitan region, people of color represent 29% of the population, and this percentage is expected to grow to 40% by 2040, according to the current population forecast from the Metropolitan Council. As racial and ethnic diversity increases in the region, people of color continue to experience significant barriers in housing, employment, criminal justice, public infrastructure, health, and education, and disparities are becoming more apparent with the COVID-19 pandemic and civil unrest that is occurring in many communities.

Across the metropolitan region, many cities are working to examine local public services and to consider and establish policies, systems and resources to help advance equity. This work is occurring at various levels in cities throughout the region. All levels of government as well as the nonprofit and business sectors have roles to play in addressing inequities and must work collaboratively to ensure that services and resources are considered, designed and implemented in a comprehensive, purposeful, informed and inclusive way to achieve equity.

Metro Cities supports state resources to assist cities with data collection and sharing to ensure informed local decision making, an examination of state laws for racial disparities, funding to assist in the development of tools and resources that advance equity, and active partnerships among state, regional, and local government institutions and other entities to advance equity.

Ad Hoc Committee on Race Equity

Chair: Lisa Laliberte, Vice President, Metro Cities, Councilmember, City of Roseville

Susan Arntz, City Administrator, City of Waconia

Josh Berg, Councilmember, City of Elko New Market

Deb Calvert, Councilmember, City of Minnetonka

LaTonia Green, Finance Director, City of Brooklyn Park

Mary Hamann Roland, Metro Cities Board Member, Mayor, City of Apple Valley

Jan Jenson, Metro Cities Board Member, Councilmember, City of Saint Anthony

Steve Morris, Councilmember, City of Woodbury

Loren Olson, Government Relations Representative, City of Minneapolis

Dan Ryan, Councilmember, City of Brooklyn Center

Donna Schmitt, Mayor, City of Columbia Heights

Tracy Shimek, Housing & Economic Development Coordinator, City of White Bear Lake

ThaoMee Xiong, Metro Cities Board Member, Intergovernmental Relations Director, St. Paul