

Business Item

Metropolitan Council



For the Metropolitan Council: March 25, 2026

Business Item: 2026-72

Appointments to the Equity Advisory Committee

District(s), Member(s): All
Policy/Legal Reference: Minnesota Statute 473.127
Staff Prepared/Presented: Robin Hutcheson, Chair
Division/Department: Chair's Office

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve the following appointments to the Equity Advisory Committee:

- Taiwo Giwa (District B)
- Sabrina Tapia Contreras (District F)
- Odell Brown (District G)
- Robert Blake (At-Large)
- Elizabeth Chidothe (At-Large)
- Ibrahim Owolabi (At-Large)
- Marquita Stephens (At-Large)
- Brian Xiong (At-Large)

Background

The Equity Advisory Committee was established by the Metropolitan Council pursuant to MN Statute 473.127. The purpose of the Equity Advisory Committee is to advise the Metropolitan Council in its work to advance equity in the metropolitan region and meet the Council's equity commitments in Imagine 2050. The Equity Advisory Committee is comprised of 21 members, including four Council Members, eight community members from geographic districts (A-H), and nine community members who serve at-large.

Rationale

Nine Equity Advisory Committee positions are currently open for appointment due to term expirations and vacancies. Committee members serve four-year staggered terms to ensure continuity of leadership and institutional knowledge.

Council Members Toni Carter and Dr. Tyronne Carter served on the nominating committee which facilitated the review and interview process from January 20, 2026 to January 29, 2026. A total of 17 applications were received for the nine available positions. Candidates were evaluated based on their experience, demonstrated commitment to advancing equity, and ability to contribute meaningfully to the Committee's work.

Following the interviews, the committee reviewed the application materials and interview notes and made appointment recommendations for Chair Hutcheson and the Council's consideration. If appointed, appointees will complete terms ending April 16, 2030.

Thrive lens analysis

On Feb 12, 2025, the Council adopted Imagine 2050, which builds on policy direction in Thrive MSP 2040. The impact of the Equity Advisory Committee is in alignment with Imagine 2050. The committee is critical to the Council's work towards advancing all regional outcomes, including equity.

Funding

None.

Small business inclusion

There are no direct impacts to small business with this action.

