

# Minutes

Equity Advisory Committee



**Meeting date:** April 21, 2026

**Time:** 6:00 PM

**Location:** 390 Robert Street

## Members present:

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Co-Chair, John Pacheco Jr., District 5         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Samiira Isse, District C            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ibrahim Owolabi, at large   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Co-Chair, Carmeann Foster, at large | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anita L. Urvina Davis, District D   | <input type="checkbox"/> Robert Blake, at large                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yassin Osman, District 7            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zakariya Abdullahi, District E      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marquita Stephens, at large |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Tyrone Carter, District 3       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sabrina Tapia Contreras, District F | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brian Xiong, at large       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toni Carter, District 14            | <input type="checkbox"/> Odell Brown, District G                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Astrid Benedetto, at large  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Luseni, District A          | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant, District H                             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Markeya Knight, at large    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Taiwo Giwa, District B              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elizabeth Chidothe, at large        | <input type="checkbox"/> (E) Mitchel Hansen, at large           |
|   |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> = present, E = excused      |

## Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

The Metropolitan Council acknowledges that the land we currently call Minnesota and specifically the seven-county region is the ancestral homeland of the Dakota Oyate who are present and active contributors to our thriving region. As part of the Metropolitan Council's commitment to address the unresolved legacy of genocide, dispossession, and settler colonialism and the fact that government institutions, including the Metropolitan Council, benefitted economically, politically, and institutionally after the forceable removal of the Dakota Oyate, the Metropolitan Council is dedicated to instilling Land, Water, and People Commitments in regional policy. These commitments support the Dakota Oyate, the eleven federally recognized Tribes in Minnesota, Ho-Chunk Nation, and the American Indian Communities representing over 150 diverse Tribal Nations that call the seven-county region home.

## Call to order

A quorum being present, Council Co-Chair Carmeann Foster called the regular meeting of the Equity Advisory Committee to order at 6:10 p.m.

## Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

The Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment was read by Co-Chair Carmeann Foster.

## Agenda approved

It was moved by Astrid Benedetto, seconded by Elizabeth Chidothe to approve the agenda. Committee members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda. **Motion carried.**

## Approval of minutes

It was moved by CM Toni Carter, seconded by Samiira Isse to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2026, regular meeting of the Equity Advisory Committee. **Motion carried.**

It was moved by CM Toni Carter, seconded by Samiira Isse to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2026, regular meeting of the Equity Advisory Committee. **Motion carried.**

## Public invitation

No registered speakers.

## Information

### Agenda Item 1

**Presentation Title-** Office of Civil Rights and Small Business Programs (OCR SB) Engagement & Development Unit

#### **Presentation Overview-**

- Overview of OCR SB and the Engagement & Development Unit's work supporting equitable small business participation.
- Discussed DBE and MCUB programs and expanded contracting opportunities for underutilized businesses.
- Highlighted free trainings, one-on-one business support, and government contracting assistance for small businesses.
- Shared outreach efforts with chambers, community organizations, and diverse business groups to strengthen partnerships and accessibility.
- Requested EAC support in connecting businesses, organizations, and community partners to OCR SB programs and opportunities.

#### **Presentation Notes-**

**Council Member Toni Carter:** Thank you. I somehow took my camera down and I'm not sure how, but I wanted to jump in and say thank you so much. The work that you are doing is definitely impressive.

I want to thank you for being proactive in the ways that you have approached outreach and programming for businesses, helping them get connected and teaching them how to navigate opportunities with government. The work you're doing to help businesses understand the connections available through the Metropolitan Council and how they can build those relationships is extremely important.

I appreciated hearing you describe the quarterly sessions that engage businesses and introduce them to doing business with government. I know much of your focus is on Metro Transit and Metropolitan Council divisions, but it also strikes me that there are many opportunities for collaboration across government entities because the challenges of connecting effectively with small businesses are universal.

I'm wondering if there are any partnerships we are currently engaged in with other units of government so that we can collectively take advantage of those shared goals and outreach efforts.

You also answered one of my questions by sharing the QR code and giving us an opportunity to send information and contacts to you. I know there are individuals on this call who will likely send you names of organizations and executive directors so you can continue those relationships. I'm definitely interested in helping connect businesses and ensuring that they are reaching out and following through once they're connected.

You mentioned a brochure, and I believe you said there is a QR code on the brochure as well. I'm wondering if there's something you can send to us that we can distribute and share with organizations and businesses so they can connect directly with your office and access the



information they need.

Again, I just want to emphasize that this work is growing, and it is impressive to see how aggressively you are reaching out, identifying concerns, and creating solutions. These are busy people running businesses, and I know your team is busy as well, but I'm glad you are working intentionally to ensure communication is effective and that these relationships result in more opportunities for both the Metropolitan Council and small businesses. That is how we all succeed together.

So I'll leave my question there regarding what information we can receive so we can effectively connect businesses to your office.

**Thomas Mebrahtu:** Yes, definitely. Thank you, Council Member. Thank you so much for your kind words.

As Dralandra mentioned, we will absolutely share all of that information with you. We can send it directly to your email or provide it to Torri so it can be distributed to everyone. We will definitely follow up and make sure you receive all the information and resources you need.

**Carmeann Foster:** It seems like we are naturally moving into our discussion portion. As we do that, I also want to thank the Office of Civil Rights and Small Business Programs for your thoughtful presentation.

As we open the floor for questions and discussion, I want to remind our online participants to please use the hand raise feature so we can keep track of participation and call on everyone in order.

I believe Council Member Dr. Tyrone Carter is next, followed by Ibrahim.

**Council Member Dr. Tyrone Carter:** I'd first like to say kudos for the work that you're doing. I truly appreciate how thorough your outreach efforts have been.

That outreach is very important because many small businesses often feel isolated, almost like they're floating alone on an iceberg. They need that connection and support.

I'm assuming this may already be part of your outreach efforts, but I hope you are involving local Chambers of Commerce in this work. I also hope that, if you haven't already, you continue building relationships with the Small Business Administration. As someone who has been a small business owner myself, the SBA was always a lifeline for me.

They also have programs like the Senior Corps of Executives, where retired business owners mentor small businesses, and that could be another strong partnership opportunity.

**Thomas Mebrahtu:** Thank you, Council Member. Yes, definitely. We already have a very strong relationship with the Small Business Administration here in Minnesota through several channels and partnerships. We've built good relationships through many avenues, so we are very well connected with the Small Business Administration, and we appreciate that partnership.

**Ibrahim Owolabi:** Yes, thank you very much. I am truly blown away by the depth of your presentation, Mr. Thomas. It was incredibly detailed regarding the work your team has done, your goals, and the aspirations of the unit. You can clearly feel the partnership that exists within your team, so thank you for showing that. It was highly impressive and, most importantly, impactful for the community.

I'm still learning about the Underutilized Business Program, and it appears to be not only intentional, but also results-oriented. As a new member of this committee, I know I will have opportunities to engage community members and talk about the work of the Equity Advisory Committee, and I want to be able to speak knowledgeably about these efforts.

One thing I'm interested in learning more about is how communities can better understand the



work that we do here. I'm thinking specifically about promotional efforts and storytelling how we communicate this work beyond just the ecosystems we already engage with and expand awareness to individuals who may not currently have access to these networks or opportunities.

I would also like to know whether there is existing demographic data related to participation in these programs. For example, information about individuals or businesses who participated in technical assistance programs, who completed them, and who may have disengaged along the way and why. If we can make that information publicly accessible, it could help address concerns regarding inequities within equity programs and help us communicate more effectively with the community.

If we had access to demographic distributions of participants not just organization names, but who they represent within the community I think it would help demonstrate how these programs are supporting businesses and strengthening communities overall.

This is truly an excellent body of work. I could honestly ask questions all day because I think what you've done is outstanding. Torri already shared some of this information with us previously but hearing it directly today has been incredibly helpful.

My final question is about sustaining engagement. Some organizations initially show excitement and interest but eventually stop engaging. Beyond organizations simply not following up, I'm curious about what barriers you are identifying that may be getting in the way of continued engagement. What are you learning from those experiences, and what can be done to help organizations continue moving from initial interaction toward actively working with the Council?

Overall, this is excellent work. I truly appreciate it, and I'm glad to be here.

**Thomas Mebrahtu:** Thank you so much again. One of the barriers we've identified is staff turnover within organizations. Sometimes we establish strong relationships with someone, but then that individual leaves the organization. When new staff come in, we often have to restart the relationship-building process all over again. That's one of the major challenges we've observed. Regarding the demographic data you mentioned, that is definitely something we are interested in continuing to strengthen. We do have databases collecting information, and we are actively working internally on how we can better share that data moving forward.

Please stay tuned because we definitely want to continue building those systems and providing more information in the future.

**Dralandra Larkins:** If I can add to that quickly, thank you for asking that question because that's something our office has been discussing more broadly specifically how we tell the story around our data.

For example, during a recent committee discussion, questions came up about how many Native-owned businesses participate in our programs and how many Native employees work within the Council. Those demographic details are important because they allow us to move beyond simply saying we support small businesses and instead demonstrate who we are actually reaching.

Right now, we are actively working on strengthening how we collect, track, and communicate that data. The goal is to create a clearer and more transparent story around our work.

One of our business analysts has been building Power BI dashboards to better visualize this information. Alongside that, we're also focusing heavily on direct engagement through outreach events, partnerships, and one-on-one connections so businesses don't just hear about the Council they experience how we support them directly.

This is definitely a larger office-wide conversation, and it's something we are actively prioritizing.

**Carmeann Foster:** Wonderful. I think I'm actually next. A couple of things came up as you all were talking. A few people mentioned organizations that have kind of fallen out of the communication process. I know that in government and other formal settings, a lack of follow-up can sometimes be interpreted as disinterest or even become a reason for deciding a relationship is not worth pursuing.



I just want to encourage everyone to remember that many of these organizations operate with volunteer leadership or part-time staff, so the likelihood of things falling through the cracks is much higher than it would be in more traditionally structured organizations.

I know there have been outreach efforts and commitments to follow up, but I would really encourage continued follow-up even when the other party initially committed to reconnecting. Sometimes it can be as simple as saying, “Hey, I know we planned to reconnect around this time, but I haven’t heard back from you yet.” That continued interest matters.

As a government entity, we are often used to people chasing us, but I think it’s important to continue showing that interest and maintaining those relationships.

Another thing that came up for me personally, as a small nonprofit owner, is that the idea of contracting with any government entity can feel very daunting. There are a lot of barriers.

Within this committee, we’ve had the benefit of hearing from several different departments within the Metropolitan Council about efforts being made to support small businesses and improve contracting accessibility. But I also wonder what we’re doing to openly acknowledge how difficult partnering with government can sometimes feel and how we are reassuring businesses that those challenges are not as insurmountable as they may have heard from others.

There’s often a narrative that governments don’t pay on time and that businesses can end up struggling financially while waiting for payments. I know improvements have been made in some of those areas, but I wonder if there are ways we can proactively communicate that.

Are there marketing or outreach efforts we can undertake to reassure people that we understand why they may be hesitant to engage and that we’ve worked to improve those processes? Almost like saying, “We understand your concerns, we’ve addressed many of them, and we want you to come back and work with us.”

I think those were the main thoughts I wanted to share.

**Thomas Mebrahtu:** Yes, thank you, Chair. I think I can give one example, and then Annick and Dralandra can also add to it.

As you mentioned, many small businesses, especially newer businesses, simply don’t know how to do business with government contracting agencies.

When I started in 2021, I believe we conducted a survey with nearly 2,000 MCUB firms, and we received responses from around 346 firms. The goal was to better understand the barriers they were facing when it came to contracting opportunities with government agencies.

One of the biggest issues, mentioned by more than 50% of respondents, was that they did not know how to find contracting opportunities. Another major barrier was not knowing how to estimate and bid on projects. Many businesses also said they didn’t know how to respond to RFPs and other government procurement processes.

Based on that feedback, we developed trainings in 2024 specifically designed to address those concerns.

We also created a short video about one minute and forty-six seconds long that visually walks businesses through how to find contracting opportunities with the Council. It explains how to sign up for email notifications and navigate the process step-by-step.

We realized that while emails can be helpful, many people are visual learners, so having a short instructional video made the process much easier to understand.

We also developed trainings focused on estimating and bidding because many businesses shared that working with numbers and navigating government paperwork felt overwhelming. Government contracting involves a lot of paperwork, and we recognized that as a major barrier for small businesses.

Over the last two years, our trainings on estimating, bidding, responding to RFPs, and



introductions to government contracting have had some of the highest participation numbers we've seen.

The evaluations have also shown very positive feedback. Many small businesses shared that after participating, they felt much more comfortable doing business with the Council and with government agencies overall.

Thank you, and I think Annick and Dralandra may want to add to that as well.

**Dralandra Larkins:** I was just going to say that Thomas covered it very well, so I don't really have anything additional to add.

**Annick Dall-Desbois:** One effort I did want to highlight relates to some of the work Dralandra has been doing with our MCUB newsletter.

I want to give Dralandra a shout-out because she has done a great job working with communications to develop different versions of the newsletter that go out to firms certified as MCUBs, especially firms that may be newer or not as actively engaged.

One of the biggest focuses of the newsletter redesign was using approachable language and simple messaging. We wanted businesses to receive clear communication that says, "You are an MCUB. We want to work with you. Here's what that means, and here's how you can connect with us, ask questions, and find opportunities."

Using plain language is incredibly important because government communication can often feel full of jargon and difficult to understand. We wanted the tone and voice of the newsletter to feel welcoming, accessible, and supportive.

We're also recognizing that different audiences require different engagement strategies. For example, businesses that are already certified as MCUBs but haven't been actively engaged may require different outreach approaches than businesses that are still exploring certification.

A large part of our communication efforts now focuses on helping businesses better understand certification and how to engage with the Council in ways that feel approachable and manageable.

**Dralandra Larkins:** To build on what Annick shared about plain language in the newsletter, Thomas and I recently sat down maybe within the last week or two to revisit those newsletters again and ask ourselves how we could make them even more accessible.

Not necessarily simpler, but more accessible so people can better understand the program and know where they can go for help.

One of the things we're now considering is translating the newsletters into additional languages. We recently added messaging that lets readers know they can request translated versions by contacting us directly, which wasn't included before.

That's one thing I really appreciate about this team; we're constantly trying to improve our programs and make them more accessible for the communities we serve.

So yes, the newsletter is definitely one of the tools we are continuing to improve and evaluate right now.

**Carmeann Foster:** Fantastic. Thank you all for sharing. Do we have any other questions or comments?

**Yassin Osman:** Yes, well, thank you very much. First of all, I want to appreciate the team and the tremendous work that you all are doing. This work is absolutely beautiful, and I want to give kudos to all of you because it is truly amazing.

One of the questions I had was actually already addressed regarding communication in multiple languages, especially during the initial outreach and contact process. Many small business owners do not speak English as their first language, so I was wondering whether there are flyers or



communication materials available in other languages such as Spanish, Hmong, and Somali.

That was one of my main questions.

I also want to encourage you to utilize us as Council Members because we have many strong connections within community organizations and cultural communities. Whether it's helping with follow-up outreach or making the initial introductions, we would be happy to support those efforts.

Finally, I want to thank everyone participating in this work. This is truly meaningful work, and I appreciate everything you all are doing.

**Thomas Mebrahtu:** Thank you, Council Member Osman. We truly appreciate it.

That is exactly why we are here today, to ask for your assistance and support in helping us connect with different organizations and communities so we can continue making the Metropolitan Council and our small business programs more visible and accessible.

We definitely welcome your help and support. You can fill out the referral form anytime it does not have to be today or tomorrow. Whenever you have an opportunity, please feel free to refer businesses or community organizations that you believe we should connect with. That would be extremely valuable for us.

Regarding your question about translations, you actually read our minds.

We already have materials translated into Spanish, Somali, and Hmong. Right now, because we are in the process of updating our office name and making additional program changes, we are temporarily holding those translations until all updates are finalized.

We also recently increased the threshold within the MCUB procurement program, so we want to ensure all of those updates are reflected accurately in the translated materials as well.

Once those updates are complete, we will absolutely continue translating our English materials into those languages, and we are also open to adding additional languages that may better support the communities we serve.

Thank you again so much.

## **Agenda Item 2**

**Title-** Office of Civil Rights and Small Business Programs Name Update - Ashanti Payne, Director, OCRSB

### **Conversation Notes-**

**Ashanti Payne:** Thank you, Madam Chair and committee members.

For those who may not know me, my name is Ashanti Payne, and I currently serve as the Director of the Office of Civil Rights and Small Business Programs.

As some of our team members shared during today's presentation, and as some of you may already know, the Civil Rights Unit has presented to this body before, although some of our newer committee members may not have had the opportunity to experience that yet.

I wanted to take some time today to discuss the reorganization and name change that our office has recently gone through. As many of you have probably already noticed, especially those who have been part of this committee for some time or serve as Council Members, the Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity has undergone both a structural reorganization and a name change.

Our office is now called the Office of Civil Rights and Small Business Programs.

This reorganization was done to better align specific duties, responsibilities, and operational functions within the department. Although the name has changed, our authority and responsibilities

remain the same, particularly regarding equity program delivery, administration, oversight, and compliance.

One important change to note is that the Investigations and Resolutions Unit, which was previously housed within our office, has now moved under Risk and Compliance. That change became effective on February 2.

Additionally, a new Civil Rights Unit has been added to the Office of Civil Rights and Small Business Programs.

I wanted to come before this committee today to discuss the name change, answer questions, and have a conversation about where the department is headed strategically and how all of you can continue helping us create impact across the region we serve.

I also want to mention that we will be communicating these changes more broadly throughout the organization. There will be an article published in *The Wire* newsletter on the 28th of this month. We will also be presenting at the Regional Administration Managers Meeting tomorrow morning, and we are scheduled to present to the Management Committee sometime in May.

However, we wanted to come to this committee first so we could have this conversation directly with all of you and answer any questions you may have about the department or about the changes themselves.

With that, I'm happy to take any questions.

**Carmeann Foster:** Thank you for that thorough background.

We'll now open the floor for questions and discussion from the committee. To help maintain the flow of conversation and online participation, please use the raise hand feature.

Council Member Dr. Tyrone Carter, you have the floor.

**Council Member Dr. Tyrone Carter:** Good evening, and welcome, Ashanti.

My question may already have been asked elsewhere, but I'd really like to understand when exactly the name change came about and what prompted it.

I always like hearing the backstory because it helps us better understand the forces and motivations behind change. If you could share that background with us, I'd appreciate it.

**Ashanti Payne:** Absolutely. The conversation really began when we were notified about some organizational changes involving the Investigations and Resolutions Unit. As those conversations were happening, I started reflecting on how our office is perceived across the organization, especially within Metro Transit, which makes up a large portion of the Council.

For many employees and stakeholders, their primary interaction with our office was through investigations, and that became the defining image of who we were.

At the same time, we were bringing in a new unit and also transitioning into new leadership within the department. That created an opportunity for us to step back and ask ourselves an important question: "How do we want to tell our story?"

Because if we don't tell our story ourselves, there are always people willing to tell it for us, and it may not accurately represent who we are or what we want to convey.

So, we saw this as an opportunity not only to reorganize structurally, but also to redefine and strengthen our identity.

We started by asking whether we wanted to change the name of the office at all. There were aspects of the previous name that I appreciated, but there were also parts that felt outdated. For example, the phrase "Equal Opportunity" is very rooted in terminology and frameworks from past decades, particularly the 1980s.

We had many thoughtful and robust conversations internally around equity, civil rights, and how we

wanted our work to be understood moving forward.

You may have also noticed that our Equity Implementation Unit has been renamed Enterprise Equity. Again, that change was intended to better communicate the role and authority of that unit.

We see ourselves as drivers of equity. Our role is to help develop the strategies, initiatives, and ideas often in collaboration with groups like the Equity Advisory Committee while divisions across the Council are responsible for implementing that work.

So, this reorganization became an opportunity to strengthen our position and impact both within the organization and across the region.

We also want to improve how we engage and partner internally and externally, and we want to establish clearer metrics and KPIs so we can better measure how we are achieving our mission.

We reviewed everything our mission, vision, authority, responsibilities, and strategic direction to ensure that they align with the larger mission of the Metropolitan Council.

We believe it's important for employees to understand how their work contributes not only to the organization itself but also to the broader region and communities we serve.

This work is critical to building a prosperous region economically and socially. If certain communities or populations are not participating fully, then we cannot truly achieve regional prosperity.

So that's really the broader background behind the reorganization and name change.

The organizational restructuring discussions began around early January, and shortly after that, we began discussing name change internally. The official name change itself happened more recently, within the last few weeks, around the time communication was sent out to Council Members.

**Council Member Dr. Tyrone Carter:** Thank you.

I just want to say thank you for continuing to evolve and thank you for your dynamic and visionary leadership.

**Ashanti Payne:** Thank you. I appreciate that, Dr. Carter.

**Carmeann Foster:** Yes, I think I see a hand raised. Ibrahim, I believe you're next.

**Ibrahim Owolabi:** Yes, thank you very much. I'd like to begin by thanking Director Payne for the background information you shared in response to Council Member Carter's question. It was very helpful in understanding why the changes occurred.

As I was listening, I started thinking about the broader institutional consultation process that may have taken place before the change happened.

I understand that today's conversation is more of an advisory update to the committee and the broader Council, but I'm curious whether there were consultations across other committees or departments before arriving at the final name of Civil Rights and Small Business Programs.

More importantly, I think the emphasis on civil rights is especially timely right now. This feels like the right moment to elevate that language and focus.

Since I'm newer to this committee, I'm still learning about the process and the presentations that may have happened before my time here. It does sound like the Council overall was informed about the changes, as you mentioned earlier.

So, I'm wondering whether consultation happened across committees or other parts of the Council beyond management, and what kinds of input or perspectives may have helped shape the final direction of the change.

**Ibrahim Owolabi:** I'm also curious whether consultation happened across other committees within the Council and what input may have been gathered beyond management, which of course



implements much of the work we are discussing here today.

I'm interested in understanding whether other areas of the Council had opportunities to provide perspective or input into the overall change process.

**Ashanti Payne:** Thank you, committee member, and Madam Chair. In terms of consultation with standing committees, including the Equity Advisory Committee, no we did not formally consult with those committees prior to the change. This is actually the first Council committee we have officially engaged with and communicated the name change to.

Most of the consultation and discussion occurred internally.

The conversations began primarily with our staff, our internal team, and our leadership team. From there, discussions expanded to the larger department and then to leadership across the Council, including Regional Administration leadership and Deputy Regional Administrators.

So, the consultation process and the robust conversations around the name change were largely internal.

We did narrow the discussion down to three possible name options. I don't think there was much disagreement around the idea that a name change was needed, but there were thoughtful and robust discussions regarding the final direction and the three options we considered.

Ultimately, we voted internally on the options and then presented the final recommendation to leadership.

**Anita Urvina Davis:** Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. I apologize because I'm having some trouble with my camera. Director Payne, regarding the name change to Civil Rights, do you believe that centering the work around civil rights law strengthens the work more than using terminology like equity and diversity?

**Ashanti Payne:** Thank you, committee member and Madam Chair. If I'm understanding your question correctly, then yes, I would agree. The term "civil rights" is very clearly rooted in law, and it communicates that legal authority and responsibility in a very direct way.

If the question is whether it is stronger terminology than equity and diversity language, I would say yes from that perspective because it clearly communicates our role in ensuring legal compliance and ensuring that programs are administered and delivered in ways that comply with the law.

So yes, from that standpoint, I do believe it carries stronger legal authority and clarity.

**Anita Urvina Davis:** OK, I appreciate that perspective because I think when people especially upper management hear terms like equity and diversity, they sometimes view those concepts as optional or something they don't necessarily have to follow.

But when they hear "civil rights," they immediately understand that it is rooted in law and that there are legal obligations attached to it.

So in my opinion, the name change gives more power and authority to the work that your office is doing, and I think that's important.

## Announcements

- New members welcomed to EAC
- Quarterly summary report being constructed
- Recruiting for District H

## Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

### **Certification**

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Equity Advisory Committee meeting of April 21, 2026.

Approved this 16th day of June 2026.

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### **Council contact:**

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