Metro | *Making a great place*

June 8, 2016

Tom Hughes
Metro Council President
600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, Oregon 97232

Dear Council President Hughes:

The Metro Policy Advisory Committee ("MPAC") wants to express its support for Metro's Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion ("Strategic Plan") and urges the Metro Council to approve it and begin implementing it. As representatives from jurisdictions and community organizations, MPAC members are committed to achieving greater equity, and the Strategic Plan is an important step in this direction.

The Strategic Plan shows that the Portland metropolitan region is undergoing significant demographic change, with people of color becoming a greater percentage of the local population while, at the same time, experiencing great challenges in many areas. The Strategic Plan makes the case for why advancing racial equity is important for the region: both for ensuring that all communities are effectively served by government, and for achieving greater economic prosperity.

The Strategic Plan also provides a clear rationale for why focusing on advancing racial equity will contribute to improve equitable outcomes for all communities that have been historically marginalized. It also provides ambitious and achievable goals, objectives and action items to ensure that Metro improves how it conducts employment, contracting, engagement and service delivery. The Committee appreciates the significant amount of community and stakeholder engagement that has gone into creating the Strategic Plan, and it commends Metro for ensuring that this initiative will be implemented with strong community participation and oversight.

The Strategic Plan calls for Metro to continue to partner with other jurisdictions and stakeholders in order to find ways to advance racial equity as a region. The Committee is excited about the opportunities that this regional conversation will bring, and it looks forward to actively participating in this dialogue.

Sincerely,

Tim Clark
Chair, Metro Policy Advisory Committee