Agenda Item 7.1 a

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Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

To: **Working committees**

Date: **May 30, 2008**

From: **Jon Hallas, Associate Planner**

Re: **Regional Snapshot – Planning Impacts of Latino Population Growth**

The *GO TO 2040* comprehensive planning process includes preparing a series of reports on emerging issues that will affect the region over the next 30 years. The purpose of these snapshots is to provide background on the selected topic and corresponding key issues, then to suggest policies that could be used to address the issues.

Since 1970, Latinos have grown from a small minority of the regional population to the fastest growing ethnic group in the region. Today, 1 of every 5 people in the Chicago metropolitan region is of Latino origin. Between years 2000 – 2006 the number of Latino workers grew by 36% (196,000 workers) within the region. Latino children accounted for 92% of total enrollment growth in public schools in the region between years 2000 – 2005. These data suggest it is likely that the Latino population will continue to grow throughout the region.

This snapshot uses 7 lenses to view ways in which the growing Latino population could impact the region: Employment/Income, Education, Housing, Health, Land Use, Transportation, and Quality of Life. These lenses were chosen because they are typically used in comprehensive planning efforts. After issues have been identified for all the lenses, then general policy directions are suggested. "Planning Impacts of Latino Population Growth" is not intended as a comprehensive, in-depth analysis of data and issues. Instead, it is a beginning point for discussions about policy directions effecting growth and development through the year 2040, with an eye toward making better, more informed decisions.

Research assistance was provided by Sylvia Puente, Director, and Roger Knight, Institutional Research Specialist, Metropolitan Chicago Initiative, Institute for Latino Studies, University of Notre Dame.

Action Requested: Discussion and comments

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