

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

PROCLAMATION NO. _____

Proclaiming February 2012 as Black History Month in Multnomah County, Oregon

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. Black History Month is observed throughout the United States to celebrate and recognize the vital role of African Americans in our history and culture.
- b. In 1926, Dr. Carter G. Woodson initiated the first Negro History week. He chose a week in February that included the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, two key figures in the history of African Americans. Fifty years later, that celebration was expanded to the full month of February.
- c. African Americans have made significant contributions to our community's economic, educational, political, artistic, literary, scientific, and technological advancement, even in the face of historical injustices and denial of fundamental rights.
- d. Multnomah County joins with the country in honoring the rich heritage, extraordinary contributions, and ongoing accomplishments of African Americans, and recognizes that we all benefit from our community's racial and ethnic diversity.
- e. Multnomah County is committed to ensuring access, equity, and inclusion both within its own workplace and throughout the community. The County seeks to further these goals through the work of the Office of Diversity and Equity; implementing policies and procedures that increase equity and empowerment; supporting culturally specific services; and promoting the dedicated efforts of our employee resource groups, particularly Multnomah County Employees of Color and Managers of Color.
- f. Multnomah County also recognizes the special contributions of our African American veterans, who have dedicated themselves to protecting our country. In Multnomah County, the Portland chapter of the National Association for Black Veterans engages in strategic advocacy, as well as personal advocacy on behalf of veterans submitting claims to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The organization also works to generate and preserve the historical record related to these patriotic individuals.
- g. Celebration of Black History Month recognizes that we cannot move forward without acknowledging the sacrifices and contributions made by many, for the benefit of us all.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

The month of February 2012 is Black History Month in Multnomah County, Oregon, in recognition and celebration of the contributions of African Americans to our community.

ADOPTED this 2nd day of February, 2012.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

Jeff Cogen, Chair

**SUBMITTED BY:
Commissioner Loretta Smith**