

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

PROCLAMATION NO. 2012-_____

Proclaiming September 2012 as Infant Mortality Awareness Month in Multnomah County, Oregon

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. September 2012 is Infant Mortality Awareness Month throughout the United States. This year's theme is *Celebrate Day 366...Every Baby Deserves a Chance*.
- b. In Multnomah County, too many babies don't live to see their first birthday. African American and Native American babies are twice as likely to die within their first year of life.
- c. Low birth weight and prematurity are birth outcomes that lead to infant deaths.
- d. Poverty, stress, racism, lack of access to healthy foods, healthy environments, and limited access to culturally competent health care are factors that can contribute to negative pregnancy and birth outcomes, which can lead to high infant mortality rates.
- e. Community institutions can play an important role in addressing these issues by providing access to culturally competent prenatal care in the first trimester, supporting health promotion efforts that build community capacity and adopting healthy public policy such as smoke-free places and access to nutritious foods.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

September 2012 is Infant Mortality Awareness Month in Multnomah County - a time to commit to giving every newborn child in Multnomah County a healthy start.

ADOPTED this 27th day of September, 2012.

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

Jeff Cogen, Chair

SUBMITTED BY: Commissioner Loretta Smith, District 2