

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

PROCLAMATION NO. 09-029

Proclaiming Farm Worker Awareness Week and Honoring the Spirit and Work of César Chávez

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. As an urban county with few farms, Multnomah County, and its residents, depend on farm workers throughout the state and nation for the quality and quantity of our food;
- b. Oregon's agribusiness employs up to 175,000 year-round, seasonal, and migrant farm workers who are key partners for the safety, security, and sustainability of our agriculture;
- c. Oregon's farm workers' labor contributes more than three billion dollars annually to the state's economy;
- d. All residents of Multnomah County, without exception, benefit from the labor of farm workers;
- e. March 31st is the birthday of César Chávez, whose dedication to non-violent organizing for just wages, safe labor conditions, and dignity for the women, men, and children who toil in the fields, moved him to lead a nationwide peaceful struggle for farm worker justice that continues today;
- f. The life and service of César Chávez inspires us all, on and off the farm, young and old, all who seek to improve our lives by peaceful means;
- g. Farm workers continue to be among the lowest paid workers in our state; their jobs are among the most dangerous; and they continue to suffer racial, cultural and ethnic discrimination;

- h. In the current economic crisis that we face, the need for a safe, secure and just food system is more important than ever before.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

March 29-April 4, 2009 as Farm Workers Awareness Week, and honors March 31, 2009, the birthday of César Chávez, in Multnomah County, Oregon and urge all citizens to recognize and participate in its observance.

ADOPTED this 19th of March, 2009.

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



Ted Wheeler, County Chair



Deborah Kafoury,
Commissioner District 1



Jeff Cogen,
Commissioner District 2



Judy Shiprack,
Commissioner District 3



Diane McKeel,
Commissioner District 4



SUBMITTED BY:
Chair Ted Wheeler