

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

PROCLAMATION NO. _____

Proclaiming August 23, 2013, through August 30, 2013, Civil Rights Week in Multnomah County, Oregon.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. August 28th, 2013 marks the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington, an event organized by Blacks Civil Rights Leaders that gathered 250,000 people to march in Washington, D.C.. Citizens demanded justice and equality from the United States government, and this event was a pivotal moment in the movement in the struggle for full human rights for all.
- b. Those who marched were focused on jobs, police brutality, housing, profound discrimination based on the color of one's skin during a time when Jim Crow laws, segregation, voter discrimination and second-class citizenship were the laws of the land. People of all colors joined the effort to ensure that the United States Constitution and the protections it offered would apply equally to Blacks and others who were denied basic human rights.
- c. The nation has made significant gains through legislation, voting rights and other measures over the last 50 years. However, these efforts have not eliminated discriminatory practices and outcomes within governments and institutions. Racism continues to flourish.
- d. Recent U.S. Supreme Court actions that limit redress for racial discriminatory practices, by having to prove intent and the repeal of Section 4 of the landmark 1968 Voting Rights Act, complicates efforts to reinforce the work of the Civil Rights Movement.
- e. Consistent overrepresentation of people of color in the criminal justice system, the school to prison pipeline, and federal legislative changes that continue to criminalize our youth, the elimination of the safety net for many low-income communities and targeting of young black and brown boys and men by police and armed community members, reinforces the importance of doubling efforts as a nation to achieve the dream that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. articulated during the March on Washington.

- f. The issues of jobs, police brutality, housing, education, and economic opportunities are just as prevalent today as they were 50 years ago. We honor the work of the Civil Rights Leaders of 50 years ago and recommit ourselves to continue to work for equality for all and to the elimination of the last vestiges of discrimination within our mist.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

August 23, 2013 through August 30, 2013, Civil Rights Week in Multnomah County, Oregon

ADOPTED this 22nd day of August, 2013.

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

Jeff Cogen, Chair

SUBMITTED BY: Commissioner Loretta Smith, District 2