

**Minutes of the Multnomah County
Employee Awards Ceremony
Multnomah Building, Board Room 100
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Portland, Oregon
Wednesday, May 4, 2016**

EMPLOYEE AWARD CEREMONY

Chair Deborah Kafoury called the meeting to order at 1:29 p.m. with Vice-Chair Loretta Smith and Commissioners Jules Bailey, Judy Shiprack and Diane McKeel present.

Also attending was Lynda Grow, Board Clerk.

Chair Kafoury: HELLO AND WELCOME TO THE 2016 EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION CEREMONY. WE AT MULTNOMAH COUNTY VALUE THE WORK OF COUNTY EMPLOYEES BECAUSE IT'S WORK THAT MUST BE DONE TOGETHER. IT TAKES THOUSANDS OF EMPLOYEES TO DELIVER THE DIVERSE ARRAY OF SERVICES THAT MULTNOMAH COUNTY PROVIDES. EVERY JOB IS ESSENTIAL. EVERY EMPLOYEE – NO MATTER WHERE YOU WORK OR WHAT JOB YOU HOLD – MAKES A POSITIVE IMPACT ON OUR COMMUNITY EVERY DAY. I AM PROUD OF OUR DIVERSE AND DYNAMIC WORKFORCE. I HOPE THAT EVERY EMPLOYEE IN EVERY DEPARTMENT FEELS VALUED, ACKNOWLEDGED AND APPRECIATED.

TODAY, IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK, WE TAKE TIME TO RECOGNIZE A FEW OF OUR COLLEAGUES FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS. FOR THIS FORMAL RECOGNITION PROGRAM, NOMINATIONS ARE SOLICITED FROM EMPLOYEES AND THE PUBLIC IN THE AREAS OF: SUSTAINABILITY; DIVERSITY AND CULTURAL COMPETENCY; OUTSTANDING TEAM ACHIEVEMENT; SUPERIOR PUBLIC SERVICE TO INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL CUSTOMERS; AND EMPLOYEE INNOVATION. THIS YEAR, WE RECEIVED MORE THAN 91 NOMINATIONS THAT INCLUDED 400 COUNTY EMPLOYEES.

HOW MANY OF YOU IN THE ROOM TODAY WERE NOMINATED FOR AN EMPLOYEE AWARD, IN ANY CATEGORY, AS AN INDIVIDUAL OR AS PART OF A TEAM? WE'VE SEEN A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOU AND YOUR NOMINATION IN THE SLIDE SHOW LEADING UP TO THE CEREMONY, BUT I WANT TO THANK EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU FOR DOING WORK THAT INSPIRED PRIDE IN THE WORK OF MULTNOMAH COUNTY. PLEASE, EVERYONE JOIN ME TODAY IN THANKING ALL OF THESE REMARKABLE INDIVIDUALS.

NOW, WE WILL HIGHLIGHT THE INDIVIDUALS AND TEAMS WHO WERE SELECTED TO RECEIVE AWARDS THIS YEAR. I'D LIKE TO BEGIN BY PRESENTING THE SUSTAINABILITY AWARD, WHICH RECOGNIZES CREATIVE THINKING THAT ADDRESSES THE ROOT CAUSES OF ENVIRONMENTAL,

SOCIAL OR ECONOMIC INEQUITIES THAT LEAD TO DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACTS ON THE MOST VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES WITHIN MULTNOMAH COUNTY.

PEOPLE IN THOSE COMMUNITIES ARE FREQUENTLY LEFT OUT OF THE CONVERSATION ABOUT HOW WE CAN IMPACT GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGES. THE LONDER LEARNING CENTER STAFF SPEARHEADED AN INITIATIVE TO CHANGE THAT. TO EDUCATE THE COMMUNITY AND HELP THEM UNDERSTAND, PREPARE FOR AND RESPOND TO CLIMATE IMPACTS, THE TEAM TRANSLATED THE CITY/COUNTY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN INTO THE STATE'S FIRST COMPREHENSIVE 10-WEEK CURRICULUM, AT A LEVEL FOR ADULT GED STUDENTS.

Chair Kafoury: THE CURRICULUM FOCUSED ON HOW CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECTS PEOPLE AND THEIR COMMUNITY, AND THEN CONNECTED TO SCIENCE LESSONS FOR THE GED. STUDENTS LOOKED AT MAPS SHOWING POLLUTION LEVELS OF THEIR OWN NEIGHBORHOODS AND SET UP SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS, AND THEN WENT A STEP FURTHER, LEARNING ABOUT THE ROLE THEY PLAY IN RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE. THIS PROGRAM WAS SO SUCCESSFUL, THEY WERE ASKED TO SHARE THE CURRICULUM WITH EDUCATORS THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF OREGON. FOR THEIR SUCCESSFUL INITIATIVE, WE HONOR THE LONDER LEARNING CENTER WITH THE 2016 SUSTAINABILITY AWARD. PLEASE COME FORWARD. [APPLAUSE] STEPHANIE ANDERSON, JULIA BROWN, KRISTINE BRYAN, YVONNE FLORES, BROOKE KAVANAGH, EMILY LAUGHLIN, MELINDA MAITERTH, ALAN SMITH, CHEYENNE TULLER, AND MARIA VILLAREAL. [APPLAUSE]

Ms. Tuller: HI. I'M CHEYENNE TULLER. ONE OF THE INSTRUCTORS AT THE LONDER LEARNING CENTER. WE WANT TO SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT WHAT THE EXPERIENCE WAS LIKE AND ALSO TO PUT THE WORD OUT WE ARE GOING TO BE DOING IT AGAIN THIS SUMMER. WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW IDEAS, NEW PARTNERS. SO IF YOU ARE LIKE, O. I HAVEN'T BEEN IN SCHOOL FOR A WHILE. I HAVE GOT THINGS ABOUT WHAT YOU COULD DO, PLEASE LET US KNOW. AS TEACHERS WE ARE PUTTING TOGETHER CURRICULUM FOR THE GED ALL THE TIME. A LOT OF TIME IT'S STUFF STUDENTS AREN'T EXCITED ABOUT. DECIMALS! OK! PRESIDENTS, OK! SO I THOUGHT THE CLAIM WAS GOING TO BE THE SAME THING. CLIMATE CHANGE, GREAT. BUT WE PUT IT TOGETHER AND WE PUT YOU THE OUT AND THE STUDENTS LOVED IT. THEY WERE ALL OVER IT. THEY WERE LIKE I'M GOING TO TAKE THIS HOME, SHOW IT TO MY SPOUSE, MY KIDS. SHOW ME THAT WEBSITE. I WANT TO SEE THAT GAME. WHEN ARE THE FIELD TRIPS? THEY WERE MORE INTERESTED IN ANY CURRICULUM THAT WE HAVE EVER DONE.

IT WAS A SURPRISE SUCCESS FOR US. BUT BECAUSE THEY LOVED IT SO MUCH WE WENT ON A LOT OF FIELD TRIPS. I WANT TO THANK JERRY HUNTER

FROM THE CROPS PROGRAM YES, THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE] WE ALSO PARTNER WITH OFFICE OF SUSPECTED. THEY PUT TOGETHER SOME ACTIVITIES AND FIELD TRIPS FOR US THAT OUR STUDENTS LOVED. AGAIN WE WOULD LOVE TO DO IT AGAIN THIS SUMMER WITH ANYONE WHO WANTS TO PARTNER WITH WILLING. FINALLY AS THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY JUSTICE AGENCY WE WANT TO THANK THE COUNSELORS AND ANYONE WHO REFERS CLIENTS US TO. WITHOUT STUDENTS WE ARE NOT REALLY A SCHOOL. PLEASE KEEP SENDING US STUDENTS. BECAUSE EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE WE TEACH THEM SOMETHING THEY REALLY LIKE. [LAUGHTER] [APPLAUSE]

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. YOU GUYS ARE AWESOME. THANK YOU. ALL RIGHT. NOW I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE COMMISSIONER SMITH TO PRESENT THE NEXT AWARD.

Vice-Chair Smith: I KNEW THAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN. [LAUGHTER] GOOD AFTERNOON. I AM LORETTA SMITH. THIS IS ONE OF MY FAVORITE EMPLOYEE AWARDS. BECAUSE THIS COMES FROM US AND YOUR PEERS. THIS IS GREAT. I HOPE I DIDN'T BRING THIS DREARY WEATHER HERE. I AM GOING TO INTRODUCE THE DIVERSITY AND CULTURAL COMPETENCY AWARD RECOGNIZES EMPLOYEES AND TEAMS THAT PROMOTE INCLUSIVENESS AND CHAMPION DIVERSITY IN BOTH THE COUNTY AND OUT IN THE COMMUNITY. I AM HONORED TO PRESENT THIS YEAR'S AWARD TO CHARMAINE KINNEY. [CHEERS AND APPLAUSE]

I AM HONORED TO PRESENT THIS YEAR'S AWARD TO CHARMAINE KINNEY WHO HAS BEEN A FIERCE ADVOCATE FOR COMMUNITIES OF COLOR, PARTICULARLY THE NATIVE COMMUNITY. HER WORK ON THE ADULT MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE ADVISORY COUNCIL HAS HELPED HIGHLIGHT THE VOICES OF SOME OF OUR MOST VULNERABLE CITIZENS IN UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN OUR COMMUNITY. CHARMAINE WAS AN INSTRUMENTAL FORCE IN THE FORMATION OF THE FUTURE GENERATIONS COLLABORATIVE. [CHEERS AND APPLAUSE] YOU BROUGHT YOUR OWN FAN CLUB. [LAUGHTER] NOT FAIR. THAT'S NOT FAIR. I FEEL LIKE I NEED A FAN CLUB. THIS IS A COALITION THAT'S MADE UP OF AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITY MEMBERS, ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WORKING WITH A TRAUMA INFORMED APPROACH TO HELP RELATIONSHIPS IN HISTORIC TRAUMA AND PROMOTE HEALTHY PREGNANCIES FOR FUTURE NATIVE GENERATIONS.

MANY OF THE COLLABORATIVE MEMBERS HAVE REMAINED ON THE TEAM FOR YEARS. CHARMAINE'S UNFAILING COMMITMENT TO EQUITY AND INCLUSION -- I GOT TO TURN THIS -- YOU MIGHT HAVE TO HELP. THANK YOU. AS CONTINUES ITS EFFORTS TO PROMOTE HEALTH FOR EVERYONE, IT'S BEEN REPORTED THAT WHEN PEOPLE WHO WORK ALONGSIDE CHARMAINE HEARD ABOUT THIS AWARD, THEY SAID, "IT IS ABOUT TIME." YES. [CHEERS]

AND APPLAUSE] PLEASE JOIN ME AGAIN, THANK YOU, CHARMAINE KINNEY, FOR YOUR INSPIRING WORK AND CONGRATULATIONS AND KEEP IT UP.

Ms. Kinney: THANK YOU.

Vice-Chair Smith: I THINK I AM CALLING SHIPRACK TO THE STAGE. AND I WILL BE YOUR FAN CLUB. [LAUGHTER]

Commissioner Shiprack: THANK YOU, COMMISSIONER SMITH. IT IS MY PRIVILEGE TO PRESENT THE OUTSTANDING TEAM ACHIEVEMENT AWARD. THIS WINNING TEAM IS BEING RECOGNIZED FOR ADDING SIGNIFICANT VALUE TO THE ORGANIZATION AND MAKING EFFORTS ABOVE AND BEYOND NORMAL WORK DUTIES OR PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS. THE FORENSIC DIVERSION PROGRAM PROVIDED NUMEROUS BENEFITS TO THE MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES DIVISION. THIS TEAM IMPLEMENTED THREE NEW EVIDENCE-BASED, BEST PRACTICE TOOLS TO SCREEN, ASSESS, AND COORDINATE THE CREATION OF INDIVIDUALIZED TREATMENT PLANS. THIS ENSURES THAT INDIVIDUALS WITH SEVERE MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES ARE MORE RAPIDLY IDENTIFIED, AND DIVERTED FROM JAIL OR THE STATE HOSPITAL FOR COMMUNITY BASED TREATMENT.

THEIR PROCESSES ENSURE THAT TREATMENT PLANS ADDRESS THE WHOLE PERSON, PROVIDING ASSISTANCE IN AREAS THAT ARE CRITICAL TO RECOVERY AND STABILIZATION, SUCH AS OBTAINING IDENTIFICATION, BENEFITS, HOUSING, FOOD, TRANSPORTATION AND CLOTHING. SOME OF THE BENEFITS OF THIS APPROACH ARE REDUCING FURTHER EXACERBATION OF MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES. SAVING THE COUNTY AND THE STATE AT LEAST \$1.7 MILLION BY NOT PAYING FOR JAIL OR HOSPITAL BEDS FOR THESE INDIVIDUALS. REDUCING AN AVERAGE JAIL STAY FROM 137 TO 28 DAYS. YEAH. [APPLAUSE] AND MULTNOMAH COUNTY STATE HOSPITAL USAGE FOR DIVERSION CLIENTS IS DOWN, WHILE THE REST OF THE STATE IS ON THE INCREASE. SO AGAIN -- [APPLAUSE] PLEASE THANK ME. OR ALTERNATIVELY, YOU COULD JOIN ME IN SOMETHING THANKING THE FORENSIC DIVERSION TEAM AND HONORING THEM WITH THE OUTSTANDING TEAM ACHIEVEMENT AWARD. [APPLAUSE]

Ms. Dentinger: HI. I'M JEAN DENTINGER, MANAGER FOR DIVERSION COURTS AND I GET TO WORK WITH THESE VERY WONDERFUL PEOPLE EVERY DAY. AND IT REALLY IS A JOY TO COME TO WORK AND BE WITH THEM AND WORK WITH THEM. I ALSO WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE SCENES WHO HELP US EVERY DAY TO KEEP THINGS GOING SMOOTHLY. LINDSEY STOVER WHO IS HERE WHO IS OUR PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST [APPLAUSE] AND OUR OA, I DON'T SEE HER HERE BUT WE HAD A LOT OF PEOPLE BEHIND US WHO REALLY MAKE OUR DAYS AND OUR PROGRAMS GO A LOT SMOOTHER. I WANT TO SAY THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THIS RECOGNITION. [APPLAUSE]

Commissioner Shiprack: I WOULD NOW LIKE TO AWARD THE SUPERIOR PUBLIC SERVICE TO INTERNAL CUSTOMERS, WHICH RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE OTHER EMPLOYEES OF MULTNOMAH COUNTY. HAS ANYONE IN THIS ROOM TRIED TO NAVIGATE THE CHOICES AROUND MEDICARE AND MEDICAID? HOW ABOUT HELPING OTHER PEOPLE NAVIGATE IT?

Commissioner Shiprack: CASE MANAGERS WITH AGING DISABILITIES AND VETERANS SERVICES ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE CHOICE COUNSELING TO THEIR CLIENTS, AND MUST RECEIVE ANNUAL TRAINING ON UNDERSTANDING THE CHOICES AVAILABLE. THAT' S WHERE THE MEDICARE MODERNIZATION ACT SPECIALIST TEAM STEPPED IN. THEY DECIDED TO TAKE A LECTURE/ALL-STAFF-MEETING STYLE TRAINING, AND MAKE IT MORE SUSTAINABLE AND EFFICIENT. THEY CREATED A SERIES OF SMART, INTERACTIVE VIDEOS THAT ARE AVAILABLE ON MULTCO LEARNS. CASE MANAGERS CAN ACCESS THEM RIGHT AFTER THEY ARE HIRED, INSTEAD OF WAITING FOR THE NEXT AVAILABLE TRAINING. THEY CAN ALSO ACCESS THEM ANY TIME THEY WANT WHEN THEY HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED A REFRESHER.

NO ONE NEEDS TO COMMUTE TO A DIFFERENT LOCATION FOR THE TRAINING, BUT CAN DO IT AT THEIR DESK, AND WITH ACCESS TO ALL THE HANDOUTS AND VISUAL AIDS THEY NEED, ALL THROUGH MULTCO LEARNS. IT CAN ALSO BE UPDATED AS NEEDED TO STAY CURRENT. BEYOND THE TRAINING VIDEOS, MMA STAFF MAKE THEMSELVES READILY AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE CONSULTS AND ARE ALWAYS WELCOMING, POSITIVE AND HELPFUL, AND ARE AN AMAZINGLY VALUABLE RESOURCE TO THEIR COLLEAGUES. PLEASE JOIN ME IN CONGRATULATING THE MMA SPECIALIST TEAM ON THEIR INTERNAL CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARD. [APPLAUSE] CONGRATULATIONS. I HAVE THIS MICROPHONE FOR SOMEONE.

Ms. Miller: THANK YOU. MY NAME IS AMY MILLER AND I JUST WANT TO SAY HOW PROUD OF MY TEAM, THE MMA SPECIALISTS AND THE VOLUNTEERS WHO HELPED US MAKE THIS VIDEO. THE TEAM HAD AN IDEA AND THEY JUST CARRIED IT OUT FROM AN IDEA ALL THE WAY TO THE GREAT PRODUCT THAT WE HAVE TODAY. AND THEY JUST TOOK IT ON THEMSELVES. THEY WROTE THE SCRIPT. WE GOT THESE GREAT VOLUNTEERS WHO HELPED US TO ACT. AND VOICE COACH. AND I THINK IT JUST TURNED OUT JUST REALLY GREAT. AND I WANT TO THANK THEM FOR ALL THEIR HARD WORK AND ALL THE GREAT CUSTOMER SERVICE THAT THEY PROVIDE TO OUR CASE MANAGEMENT STAFF. AND OUR CONSUMERS. THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Commissioner Shiprack: NOW I GET TO INVITE COMMISSIONER JULES BAILEY TO PRESENT THE NEXT AWARDS.

Commissioner Bailey: GOOD AFTERNOON. IT'S A PLEASURE TO SEE ALL OF YOU HERE TODAY AND IT'S MY HONOR TO BE ABLE TO PRESENT THE EMPLOYEE INNOVATION AWARD, WHICH RECOGNIZES EFFORTS TO IMPROVE WORK PROCESSES, WHICH RESULT IN MONETARY SAVINGS OR OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCIES FOR THE COUNTY. AND WE ALL KNOW HOW IMPORTANT THAT IS. STATE PROGRAMS FOR AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES REQUIRE THAT CUSTOMERS CONTRIBUTE TO THE COST OF CARE FOR MEDICAID SERVICES THAT THEY RECEIVE AT THE COUNTY. WITHOUT A WAY TO CONSISTENTLY COLLECT, TRACK, OR MONITOR PAYMENTS, 100-150 CUSTOMERS EACH MONTH WEREN'T MAKING THEIR PAYMENTS, LEADING TO THE LOSS OF TENS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS MONTHLY. TATYANA GANNOTSKIY AND DANIEL MCKAY CREATED A CENTRALIZED DATABASE THAT TRACKS PAYMENTS MADE AT ALL BRANCHES.

Commissioner Bailey: THIS ALLOWED FOR PAYMENTS TO BE MADE AT ANY LONG TERM CARE BRANCH, FOR THE EASE OF THE CUSTOMER. THE DATABASE AUTOMATICALLY EMAILS CASE MANAGERS EACH MONTH WHEN CUSTOMERS HAVE NOT MADE PAYMENTS, AND GENERATES REPORTS FOR SUPERVISORS TO HELP MONITOR PAYMENTS AS WELL. AFTER A SUCCESSFUL PILOT AT ONE BRANCH, THEY IMPLEMENTED THE DATABASE AT ALL BRANCHES IN SEPTEMBER OF 2015. THEY TRAINED ALL THE BRANCHES ON THE NEW DEPOSIT SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES, AND DRAFTED PROCEDURES FOR NEW STAFF FOR FUTURE TRAINING NEEDS. TOGETHER, THEY ADDRESSED AN ONGOING ISSUE FOR THE LONG TERM CARE PROGRAM, ALLOWING THE PROGRAM TO BE BETTER STEWARDS OF LIMITED RESOURCES. FOR THEIR INNOVATION, WE AWARD THEM TODAY. PLEASE CONGRATULATE TATYANA AND DANIEL. [CHEERS AND APPLAUSE] GREAT WORK. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR WORK. YOU WANT TO SAY A FEW WORDS?

Ms. Gannotskiy: IT KIND OF FEELS LIKE OSCARS. IT MAKES ME WANT TO SAY I WOULD THANK THE ACADEMY. [LAUGHTER] I TRULY BELIEVE WHEN WE ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING IT'S ACTUALLY BECAUSE OF THE PEOPLE WHO HELPED. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR QUALITY ASSURANCE TEAM AND THE MANAGEMENT TEAM FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND ACTUALLY FOR EVERY OA FOR EMBRACING A NEW SYSTEM AND THE CASE MANAGERS WHO PROVIDED THEIR FEEDBACK AND SUPPORT AND ACTUALLY USE IT. THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Commissioner Bailey: THANKS VERY MUCH. CONGRATULATIONS. NOW I GET TO PRESENT THE FIRST OF TWO AWARDS FOR SUPERIOR PUBLIC SERVICE TO EXTERNAL CUSTOMERS. THE PURPOSE OF THIS AWARD IS TO RECOGNIZE INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYEES FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF MULTNOMAH COUNTY. ALWAYS STRIVING TO BRING NEW READERS TO THE LIBRARY, MANDY TUTHILL HAD THE LOFTY GOAL OF REACHING OUT TO EVERY FIRST GRADE STUDENT IN THE COUNTY, TO INTRODUCE THEM TO

THE LIBRARY. I LOVE THAT GOAL! YOU CAN CLAP FOR THAT! [APPLAUSE] MANDY AND HER TEAM MADE CONNECTIONS ACROSS 7 SCHOOL DISTRICTS, AND WORKED WITH 1ST GRADE TEACHERS AROUND THE COUNTY WITH THE GOLDEN TICKET PROMOTION. TEACHERS WERE PROVIDED GOLDEN TICKETS TO GIVE TO 1ST GRADERS AND THEIR FAMILIES AT THEIR FALL CONFERENCE. THAT TICKET OPENED TO REVEAL AN INVITATION TO COME TO THE LIBRARY AND RECEIVE A FREE BOOK TO KEEP, AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN ABOUT THE LIBRARY AS A WAY TO FIND BOOKS THAT INTEREST THEM. FOR THE PILOT PROMOTION, 8,262 GOLDEN TICKETS WERE DISTRIBUTED COUNTYWIDE. THAT'S A LOT OF TICKETS. [LAUGHTER] 860 STUDENTS USED THEM TO COME TO THE LIBRARY. 50 OF THOSE WERE FIRST-TIME LIBRARY VISITORS.

Commissioner Bailey: 98% OF TEACHERS THAT PARTICIPATED FELT IT WAS A VALUABLE PROMOTION. AND THE SUCCESS OF THE PILOT HAS ENSURED THAT THE PROMOTION WILL CONTINUE FOR MORE FIRST GRADERS IN FY 17. FOR HER CONTINUED EFFORTS TO BRING NEW READERS INTO THE LIBRARY; TO INTRODUCE YOUNG MINDS TO THE JOY OF READING; AND FOR ALL OF HER EFFORTS IN COORDINATING THE GOLDEN TICKET PROGRAM, PLEASE CONGRATULATE MANDY TUTHILL ON THE AWARD FOR SUPERIOR PUBLIC SERVICE TO AN EXTERNAL CUSTOMER. [CHEERS AND APPLAUSE] THANKS SO MUCH. WELL DONE. AND NOW I AM HAPPY TO PRESENT COMMISSIONER MCKEEL TO PRESENT THE NEXT AWARDS. [APPLAUSE]

Commissioner McKeel: THANK YOU, EVERYONE. I'M REALLY SO HONORED TO BE HERE WITH YOU TODAY. AND YOU KNOW THIS IS ONE OF THE REALLY FUN THINGS WE GET TO DO AS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS IS TO BE WITH ALL OF YOU. AND RECOGNIZE OUR EMPLOYEES. BALLS WE KNOW WE HAVE THE BEST. AND SO VERY PLEASED TO BE WITH YOU TODAY. AND I AM ALSO SO EXCITED TO PRESENT THE NEXT AWARD FOR THE SUPERIOR PUBLIC SERVICE TO EXTERNAL CUSTOMERS. THE PERSON WE ARE RECOGNIZING TODAY IS JERRY HUNTER. [CHEERS AND APPLAUSE] WHERE ARE YOU? OH, THERE YOU ARE. I SAID, WHERE ARE YOU, JERRY? COME ON UP HERE. [APPLAUSE]

JERRY IS THE URBAN AGRICULTURALIST AND PART OF THE OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY. JERRY'S LEADERSHIP OF THE CROPS PROGRAM, WHICH I LOVE, COUNTY CROPS, YIELD A NUMBER OF NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS LAST YEAR JERRY PRODUCED OVER 17,000 POUNDS OF ORGANICALLY GROWN FRESH PRODUCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY. [CHEERS AND APPLAUSE] HE RECRUITED OVER 2,000 HOURS OF VOLUNTEER LABOR. HE WORKED WITH VOLUNTEERS FROM OVER A DOZEN DIFFERENT ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING GIRL SCOUTS, HOUSES OF WORSHIP, LOCAL SCHOOLS, AND BUSINESSES, TO NAME A FEW, TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MEANINGFUL VOLUNTEER/EDUCATIONAL ENGAGEMENT WITH MULTNOMAH COUNTY. HE WORKED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF

COMMUNITY JUSTICE ALTERNATIVE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM TO PLACE CLIENTS INTO OVER 2,700 HOURS OF RESTORATIVE LABOR AT THE COMMUNITY FARM.

Commissioner McKeel: HE PARTNERED WITH THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE TO DELIVER HANDS-ON TRAINING TO INMATES IN GARDENING AND IN THE PROCESS GREW MORE THAN 1,400 POUNDS OF FOOD FOR SNOWCAP CHARITIES. [APPLAUSE] AND, HE PROVIDED FRESH -- PICKED THAT DAY -- PRODUCE FOR COOKING DEMONSTRATIONS AT THE ROCKWOOD CLINIC IN A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT. [APPLAUSE] AND KATE FROM MY STAFF AND I WENT OUT THERE ONE DAY WHILE THEY WERE DOING THAT. IT WAS GREAT. WHAT MAKES JERRY' S WORK STAND OUT, HOWEVER, IS THAT EVERY STEP OF THE WAY JERRY IS ENGAGING INDIVIDUALS IN A WAY THAT MAKES THEM FEEL VALUED. IT'S NOT JUST THE WORK HE DOES BUT HOW HE DOES IT. JERRY LETS OTHERS KNOW THEY HAVE SOMETHING TO CONTRIBUTE, EMPOWERING THEM WITH KNOWLEDGE, AND OFFERS THEM AN OPPORTUNITY TO INTERACT WITH THE NATURAL WORLD IN A RESTORATIVE AND HEALING WAY. AS ONE SHINING EXAMPLE, JERRY HAS MENTORED A YOUNG HOMELESS MAN HE FOUND SLEEPING NEAR THE FARM, AND HELPED STEER HIM TOWARD THE JOB CORPS AND INDOOR SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS, RECEIVE HIS HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA, AND PURSUE AN EDUCATION IN THE CULINARY ARTS, ALL WHILE WORKING TOGETHER WITH THEIR HANDS IN THE SOIL AT THE FARM. JERRY, THANK YOU SO MUCH! [CHEERS AND APPLAUSE]

Mr. Hunter: THANK YOU. THANK YOU SO MUCH. I'M HONORED. I'M BLESSED. AND I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU TO MY TEAM BACK THERE, ALL THE VOLUNTEERS WHO ASSISTED ME. I CAN'T FATHOM, I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW MUCH IT'S BEEN A BLESSING AND REWARDING TO BE ABLE TO SHARE GARDENING SKILLS AND LIFE SKILLS WITH THE PEOPLE WHO COME IN CONTACT WITH THE FARM. THANK YOU. I'M AT A LOSS FOR WORDS. BUT I WOULD LIKE TO INVITE EVERYBODY OUT TO THE FARM. LOOK ME UP ON MY WEBSITE AND COME ON OUT AND ENJOY GETTING YOUR HANDS DIRTY AND GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY. THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE]

Commissioner McKeel: I'M ALSO EXCITED TO PRESENT THE COMMITTEE'S CHOICE AWARD. THIS AWARD IS SELECTED BY THE EMPLOYEE NOMINATION COMMITTEE BECAUSE AFTER ALL THE CALCULATIONS AND REVIEW, THE COMMITTEE FELT THAT THIS PERSON ROSE TO THE TOP AND IS DESERVING OF A RECOGNITION. CARLOS GALEANA IS THE REGIONAL TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR FOR EAST COUNTY OUT OF THE GRESHAM LIBRARY. SINCE JOINING THE TEAM, CARLOS HAS HAD A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON BOTH INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL CUSTOMERS AROUND THE COUNTY. CARLOS HAS HELPED OVER 500 PATRONS NAVIGATE THE COMPLEXITIES OF TECHNOLOGY. CARLOS MEETS WITH AN AVERAGE OF 35 PATRONS A MONTH AT FOUR DIFFERENT LIBRARY LOCATIONS. THEY COME FROM A VARIETY OF

BACKGROUNDS AND FOR MANY, ENGLISH IS NOT THEIR FIRST LANGUAGE. HE DOES THIS IN ADDITION TO HIS OTHER WORK WHICH INCLUDES STAFF TRAINING, MEETINGS, MONTHLY TECHNOLOGY NEWSLETTERS, THE ROCKWOOD LIBRARY MAKERSPACE SUPPORT, AND OUTREACH VISITS TO LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS.

Commissioner McKeel: MANY PATRONS COME TO CARLOS FRUSTRATED OR FEARFUL OF TECHNOLOGY. I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT, CARLOS. HIS ABILITY TO EMPATHIZE AND RELATE TO THEIR SITUATION FOSTERS LEARNING. HIS SESSIONS ARE CUSTOMIZED TO INDIVIDUAL LEARNING STYLES AND, AS A RESULT, WE SEE PATRONS OF ALL AGES WHO FEEL MORE CONFIDENT BECAUSE THEY CAN NOW DO IT ON THEIR OWN, SUCCESSFUL BECAUSE THEY LEARNED A NEW JOB SKILL AND GOT A PROMOTION. OH, YES! THERE'S A FAN CLUB, CARLOS. AND ENGAGED BECAUSE THEY RETURNED TO READING VIA AUDIOBOOKS AFTER LOSING EYESIGHT. CARLOS'S KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH ADULT LEARNERS REALLY SHINES THROUGH IN HIS COMMUNICATION STYLE.

HE HAS A GIFT FOR READING HIS PATRONS TO SEE HOW THEY ARE DOING, WITH THE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION SHE'S SHARING AND THE WAY HE IS SHARING IT. TO SEE IF HE NEEDS TO ADJUST HIS TEACHING STYLE. ONE PATRON SHARED THAT, " CARLOS HAS ASSISTED ME TO IMPROVE MY SKILLS DRAMATICALLY IN A SHORT TIME AND IT IS POSITIVELY AFFECTING MY EMPLOYMENT. WITH THE HELP OF CARLOS, MY CONFIDENCE LEVEL AND ACTUAL SKILLS HAVE SKYROCKETED! MY EMPLOYER HAS NOTICED AND I AM NOW BEING CONSIDERED, AND LIKELY TO RECEIVE, A PROMOTION THAT I WAS NOT QUALIFIED FOR ONLY TWO MONTHS AGO." LET'S RECOGNIZE CARLOS. [APPLAUSE]

Mr. Galeana: THANK YOU. I AM REALLY HONORED AND BLESSED TO BE HERE WITH YOU ALL TODAY. I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED SINCE I WAS A CHILD THAT THE LIBRARY IS A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN MAKE YOUR LIFE BETTER. AND I TRULY HAVE DONE THAT FOR MY PERSONAL LIFE, AND WHEN THIS OPPORTUNITY AROSE OF A TEACHING POSITION WITH THE LIBRARY, I JUST, I KNEW THAT WAS FOR ME. I KNEW I WANTED TO DO THAT. AND ONE PERSON REALLY COMES TO MIND WHEN I AM REALLY HEARING ALL THESE BEAUTIFUL WORDS, AND THE ONE PERSON IS, SHE LIVES IN GRESHAM. UNFORTUNATELY, HER HUSBAND PASSED AWAY A FEW MONTHS AGO AND SHE'S BEEN, SHE'S STRUGGLED ALMOST IMMEDIATELY WITH THAT LOSS. AND WHEN HE PASSED AWAY, THAT KNOWLEDGE OF COMPUTER SKILLS WENT. AND SHE HAD AN IPAD. SHE HAD A COMPUTER. AND SHE DIDN'T REALLY KNOW WHAT TO WITH THESE THINGS. HOW TO MOVE ON WITH HER LIFE. WE MET. WE HAVE MET SEVERAL TIMES SINCE THEN. AND HER LIFE, IT'S GONE FROM BEING AT A BEGINNER LEVEL WITH COMPUTERS TO BEING ALMOST ADVANCED.

WITH TEACHING HER IPADS AND DROIDS AND WINDOWS 8, AND NOW SHE HAS A CONFIDENCE TO BE A STUDENT AGAIN AND BECOME A BOOKKEEPER AND LEARN QUICK BOOKS ON HER OWN. A SKILL THAT SHE IS ONLY DOING BECAUSE SHE NEEDED A LITTLE CONFIDENCE DESPITE THE TRAGEDY THAT OCCURRED. SO WHEN I THINK ABOUT THIS KIND OF WORK, I THINK OF THE RESILIENCY OF THE PEOPLE THAT LIVE IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY, DESPITE THE WEATHER, HARD TIMES THAT THEY ARE STILL GOING TO COME TO THE CLASSES BECAUSE THEY WANT TO MAKE THEIR LIFE BETTER. I ALSO WANT TO DEDICATE THIS AWARD TO ALL THE GREAT PEOPLE I WORK WITH AT MULTNOMAH COUNTY LIBRARY. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. [APPLAUSE]

Commissioner McKeel: NOW I WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME CHAIR KAFOURY BACK TO PRESENT THE CHAIR'S EXCELLENCE AWARD.

Chair Kafoury: IN FEBRUARY OUR COMMUNITY RECEIVED SOME TERRIBLE NEWS. FOREST SERVICE RESEARCHERS FOUND THAT MOSS COLLECTED IN NEIGHBORHOODS ACROSS PORTLAND HAD HIGH LEVELS OF HEAVY METALS -- ARSENIC, CHROMIUM AND CADMIUM. IN THE DAYS AFTER THE NEWS BROKE, MY NEIGHBORS LIVING IN ONE OF TWO TOXIC HOT SPOTS GREW FRIGHTENED. WHAT DID THIS MEAN FOR THEIR KIDS? FOR OUR HEALTH. AND WHO COULD BE TRUSTED? THAT'S WHERE MULTNOMAH COUNTY CAME IN. OUR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH TEAM ORGANIZED TOWN HALL AFTER TOWN HALL. THEY HELPED PEOPLE LIVING NEAR THE BULLSEYE AND OROBOROS GLASS FACTORIES AT THE CENTER OF THE TOXIC HOT SPOTS GET ANSWERS TO THEIR QUESTIONS. AND THEY FOR THE AGAINST OTHER JURISDICTIONS WHO DIDN'T NECESSARILY WANT ALL THIS DISCLOSURE AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IT'S NOT EASY TO WORK ON AN ISSUE LIKE THIS ONE, WHERE PARENTS ARE TERRIFIED FOR THE HEALTH OF THEIR CHILDREN AND THEY FEEL LIKE GOVERNMENT HAS IGNORED THEM -- OR WORSE, LIED TO THEM.

I KNOW, BECAUSE I WAS AT THOSE TOWN HALLS WITH THEM. I SAW THE ANGER AND FEAR FROM THE PEOPLE THAT WERE THERE AND I SAW THE RESOLUTE CALM AND UNDERSTANDING. OUR TEAM AS THEY OFFERED HELP AND SUPPORT. I'M PROUD TO RECOGNIZE THEIR DEDICATION AND HARD WORK WITH THIS YEAR' S CHAIR' S EXCELLENCE AWARD. PLEASE COME UP FROM THE HEALTH DEPTH, RACHEL BANKS, CHRISTINA BROWN, JAE DOUGLAS, JOANNE FULLER, BRENDON HAGGERTY, ANDREA HAMBERG, MATT HOFFMAN, UEI LEI, PAUL LEWIS, LOREEN NICHOLS, CONSUELO SARAGOZA, TRICIA TILLMAN, JENNIFER VINES, AND FROM COMMUNICATIONS: JULIE SULLIVAN SPRINGHETTI, RANDY COX, MARK BAKER, ANDREA COGHLAN, AND KATE WILLSON. [APPLAUSE] THANK YOU ALL.

Dr. Douglas: MY NAME IS JAE DOUGLAS. I AM THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIRECTOR. I AM PLEASED TO SHARE THE STAGE WITH MY WONDERFUL COLLEAGUES UP HERE. THESE FOLKS REPRESENT THE THREE MAJOR

PILLARS OF WHAT HAS BEEN OUR COUNTY'S VERY ROBUST AND COMMUNITY ORIENTED CONTRIBUTION TO THE GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE AIR QUALITY CRISIS THAT STARTED IN JANUARY. IT STARTED A LITTLE EARLIER FOR SOME OF US IN JANUARY. IT WAS OUR TECHNICAL CAPACITY, OUR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RESPONSE AND OUR LEADERSHIP CAPACITY. OUR TECHNICAL STAFF, MATT HOFFMAN, BRENDAN HAGGERTY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE MULTIPLE ASPECTS IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MOSS AND AIR QUALITY, COLLECTING AND ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND BIOLOGICAL SAMPLES AND THE POTENTIAL HEALTH EFFECTS OF EXPOSURE TO HEAVY METALS. OUR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STAFF, AND IT TOOK A LOT OF HANDS TO SCHEDULE AND CARRY OUT THE LOGISTICS OF THREE VERY LARGE PUBLIC MEETINGS.

Dr. Douglas: WE HAVE ALSO BEEN DEVELOPING MATERIALS TO HELP PEOPLE UNDERSTAND WHAT'S HAPPENING, WHAT IT MEANS, WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT, AND HOW TO STAY INFORMED AS THE PROCESS CONTINUES TO UNFOLD AND TRUST ME IT IS CONTINUING TO UNFOLD. AND THEN THERE'S OUR LEADERSHIP. JOANNE FULLER, TRISHA TILLMAN, LOREEN NICHOLS, LET'S NOT OVERLOOK THE SUPPORT OF OUR CHAIR KAFOURY, COMMISSIONERS BAILEY AND SMITH WHO HAVE STEPPED UP, STEPPED IN, WORKED THE RELATIONSHIPS WITH LEADERS FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND JURISDICTIONS TO FIND IN MANY CASES CREATE NEW COMMON GROUND TO WORK TOGETHER TO UNDERSTAND AND ADDRESS THE RANGE OF ISSUES THAT HAVE BEEN REVEALED OVER THE LAST FOUR MONTHS. THIS HAD TO BE A TEAM RESPONSE.

THERE IS JUST NO OTHER WAY THAT WE WOULD HAVE BEEN AS EFFECTIVE AS WE HAVE BEEN IF WE DIDN'T HAVE THE RICH AND TALENTED COMMITMENT BENCH THAT WE HAVE. AND ALSO THE PEOPLE WHO STAYED BEHIND AND CAME IN BEHIND US AS WE STEPPED IN TO DO THIS WORK. WE ALSO HAD TO HAVE THE RELATIONSHIPS AND THE TRUST OF THE COMMUNITY THAT WE HAVE CULTIVATED AND CONTINUE TO NOURISH. THE RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER AGENCIES. AND ALSO IF WE HADN'T HAD THE LEADERSHIP THAT WE HAVE, LEADERSHIP THAT SEES AND VALUES AND SUPPORTS US IN TAKING OUR PLACE AS A PRINCIPAL MEMBER AND CONTRIBUTOR TO THE OVERALL RESPONSE. ON BEHALF OF THE TEAM, MADAM CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS I WANT TO THANK YOU BOTH FOR THIS RECOGNITION AND FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND LEADERSHIP. [APPLAUSE]

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU SO MUCH, EVERYONE, FOR JOINING US TODAY. THANK YOU AS ALWAYS TO THE EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION COMMITTEE. YEAH! THEY NEED TO BE RECOGNIZED! [APPLAUSE] THANK YOU FOR COORDINATING THIS YEAR'S EVENT. THANK YOU FOR GOING THROUGH ALL OF THOSE 91 APPLICATIONS. I CAN'T IMAGINE HOW HARD THAT WAS TO CHOOSE. WE WOULD LIKE TO DO A GROUP PICTURE OF ALL THE WINNERS. SO EVERYONE PLEASE COME UP HERE AND THE BOARD. AND THEN

AFTERWARDS WE HAVE SOME REFRESHMENTS IN THE BACK. BUT I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK ONE LAST PERSON WHO COORDINATES THIS EVENT EVERY YEAR AND SHE IS ONE OF THE MOST FABULOUS MULTNOMAH COUNTY COMMITTEES. I HAD HER FOR A BRIEF MOMENT BEFORE TRAVIS TOOK HER BACK. KELLY! [APPLAUSE] SHE'S AS RED AS HER DRESS. LOOK AT THAT. ALL RIGHT. EVERYONE COME UP. WE WILL HAVE A BIG PHOTO SHOOT.

ADJOURNMENT – 2:08 p.m.

[CAPTIONS PROVIDED BY LNS CAPTIONING AND MAY INCLUDE INACCURATE WORDS OR PHRASES DUE TO SOUND QUALITY, OTHER TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES AND/OR SOFTWARE ERRORS.]

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Submitted by:
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Board of County Commissioners
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