

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

PROCLAMATION NO. _____

Proclaiming October 11, 2011, as National Coming Out Day in Multnomah County, Oregon

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. National Coming Out Day is recognized internationally as a day of self affirmation and awareness of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) issues, observed on October 11 by members of the LGBTQ community, their families, friends, and allies.
- b. National Coming Out Day was founded in 1988 to celebrate the second National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights in 1987, in which 500,000 people marched on our Nation's Capital to raise awareness of and garner support for the LGBTQ community.
- c. Coming out, which is the public self-acknowledgement of belonging to the LGBTQ community, is recognized by many as a significant life experience. It is a turning point from the loneliness and self-denial of concealing one's identity to the fulfillment of being true to one's self to claim dignity, empowerment and self-respect, as well as the tolerance and support from others that is deserved by all.
- d. The diversity of Multnomah County and all of America is mirrored in the LGBTQ community, members of whom can be found in every faith, race, ethnic group, and profession.
- e. Multnomah County affirms its commitment to creating and maintaining an environment in which everyone is respected and valued by adhering to an anti-discrimination policy that includes protections for LGBTQ employees, by establishing the Office of Diversity and Equity that oversees Prism, the LGBTQ employee network group, and by officially celebrating Pride Month each June since 1992.
- f. Furthermore, the innovative thinking, social consciousness, and unwavering determination of LGBTQ community members, families, and advocacy/service organizations enrich and embolden Multnomah County and contribute to the renowned livability of our community.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

October 11, 2011, as National Coming Out Day in Multnomah County, Oregon, in recognition of the courage it takes to come out, as well as the importance of respect for the diversity and dignity of all LGBTQ community members and employees of Multnomah County.

ADOPTED this 6th day of October, 2011.

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

Jeff Cogen, County Chair

**Deborah Kafoury
Commissioner District 1**

**Loretta Smith
Commissioner District 2**

**Judy Shiprack
Commissioner District 3**

**Diane McKeel
Commissioner District 4**

**SUBMITTED BY:
Commissioner Loretta Smith**