

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

PROCLAMATION NO. _____

Proclaiming February 7, 2013 as National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in Multnomah County, Oregon.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. February 7, 2013, is the thirteenth year that National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day has been commemorated. This observance is a nationwide effort to mobilize Black communities to get educated, get tested, get involved and get treated around HIV/AIDS, as it continues to devastate Black communities.
- b. National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is directed, planned and overseen by a Strategic Leadership Council made up of prominent organizations, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), to mobilize community based organizations and stakeholders involved in HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment.
- c. African Americans are the racial/ethnic group most affected by HIV in the United States, and in 2009, African Americans comprised 14% of the US population but accounted for 44% of all new HIV infections. From 2007 to 2011, 79 of the 1,252 newly reported HIV cases in Oregon were Black or African American, and blacks and African Americans in Oregon are more than three times more likely than whites to acquire HIV infection. As of December 31, 2012, 322 Black or African American residents of Multnomah County were living with HIV, 8% of the total number of people living with HIV in Multnomah County.
- d. The African American AIDS Awareness Action Alliance (A6) and its member agencies including Cascade AIDS Project, Multnomah County Health Department, the Oregon Health Authority HIV Prevention Program, Planned Parenthood of the Columbia Willamette, the Portland Chapter of the LINKS, Inc, and the Albina Ministerial Alliance are working together to increase HIV/AIDS awareness in the African American community and recognize this day and its importance to all concerned citizens.

- e. It is fitting that we join with these local, national and international groups to express our strong support for National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and the initiatives to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS in Black communities and provide access to and utilization of HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and support services to those affected by HIV/AIDS. It is important to encourage local residents to strongly support this day and participate in events planned to commemorate the occasion.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

February 7, 2013 is National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in Multnomah County, Oregon.

ADOPTED this 14th day of February, 2013.

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

Jeff Cogen, Chair

SUBMITTED BY: Commissioner Loretta Smith, District 2