

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

**PROCLAMATION NO.**

Declaring December 1, 2016 as Worlds AIDS Day in Multnomah County, Oregon

**Preamble** More than 30 years ago, the first known cases of HIV/AIDS set off an epidemic in the United States characterized by fear, ignorance and stigma. What followed has been an extraordinary battle against HIV—one that Multnomah County has proudly helped to lead. However, much work remains to be done. Today on World AIDS Day, we come together to remember those lives who have been lost to HIV/AIDS, to celebrate the many successes related to treating and preventing HIV, and to rededicate ourselves to the goal of an AIDS-free generation.

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:**

- a. The US World AIDS Day theme is ***“Leadership. Commitment. Impact.”*** Multnomah County supports this theme through our continued commitment to implement the National HIV/AIDS strategy in communities we serve.
- b. Today, more people are receiving life-saving treatment for HIV than ever before, and millions of HIV infections have been prevented. Still, more than 36 million people around the world live with HIV -- including nearly 3 million children. Multnomah County has much at stake - approximately half of the people diagnosed with HIV in Oregon reside in our County.
- c. In this work, Multnomah County has partnered with community organizations for over 25 years. Together we support those living with HIV to stay in comprehensive care and increase access to preventive measures, including PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis).
- d. HIV affects specific populations disproportionately across our country---gay and bisexual men, Black women and men, Latinos and Latinas, people who inject drugs, transgender women, and young people. We must focus our efforts to reduce HIV-related health disparities.
- e. Based upon the foregoing, Multnomah County Board of Commissioners calls on all Oregonians to take the first step towards an AIDS-free generation – ***Start Talking. Get Tested.*** We can accomplish our goals of reducing new HIV infections, increasing access to care, improving health outcomes for patients, reducing HIV-related disparities, and building a cohesive, coordinated response to HIV by working together.
- f. In light of the continued importance of public awareness of the epidemic, the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims December 1, 2016 as World AIDS Day in Multnomah County.

**ADOPTED this 1<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2016.**

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

**SUBMITTED BY: Commissioner Jules Bailey, District One**