

**TRANSCRIPT FOR THE MEETING OF THE
MULTNOMAH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MULTNOMAH BUILDING, BOARD ROOM 100
501 SE HAWTHORNE BLVD., PORTLAND, OREGON**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2018 @ 9:30 AM

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

VICE-CHAIR -CHAIR LORI STEGMANN CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 9:37 A.M. WITH COMMISSIONERS SHARON MEIERAN, LORETTA SMITH AND JESSICA VEGA PEDERSON PRESENT. CHAIR DEBORAH KAFOURY WAS EXCUSED.

ALSO ATTENDING WERE JENNY MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY, AND LYNDA GROW, BOARD CLERK.

VICE-CHAIR STEGMANN: GOOD MORNING, WE'LL GO AHEAD AND GET STARTED, WELCOME TO THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS. TODAY IS THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2018. THIS IS MY FIRST MEETING AS VICE CHAIR SO I HOPE THAT YOU WILL ALL BEAR WITH ME AS I RUN THE MEETING TODAY IN CHAIR KAFOURY'S ABSENCE. [APPLAUSE] I WOULD LIKE TO TURN IT OVER TO COMMISSIONER VEGA PEDERSON FOR A MOMENT.

COMMISSIONER VEGA PEDERSON: THANK YOU VICE CHAIR STEGMANN. BEFORE WE GOT STARTED WITH THE REGULAR AGENDA I WAS -- I WANTED TO ASK FOR A MOMENT OF SILENCE IN RECOGNITION OF THE 17 STUDENTS WHO WERE KILLED AT MARJORY STONEHAM DOUGLAS SCHOOL IN PARKLAND, FLORIDA. FOR ALL THEIR FAMILIES AND THE NATION WHO ARE SUFFERING AND VERY SAD TODAY. [MOMENT OF SILENCE]

CONSENT AGENDA

- C.1 Budget Modification HD 31-18 Reclassifies a 0.93 FTE Licensed Community Practical Nurse to a 0.93 FTE Medical Assistant in the Integrated Clinical Services Division of the Health Department.
- C.2 Reappointment of Tim Lichatowich to the Multnomah County Deferred Compensation Committee

VICE-CHAIR STEGMANN: THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS IS THE CONSENT CALENDAR, LYNDA, WOULD YOU PLEASE READ THE CONSENT CALENDAR? IT'S BEEN MOVED BY COMMISSIONER VEGA PEDERSON AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MEIERAN. SO THE CONSENT CALENDAR PASSES. OH, ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SIGNIFY BY SAYING AYE. THE CONSENT CALENDAR PASSES. DO WE HAVE ANY PUBLIC COMMENT?

BOARD CLERK: YES, WE DO. WE HAVE SIX.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Opportunity for Public Comment on non-agenda matters. Testimony limited to three minutes per person. This is a time for the Board to hear public testimony, not for Board deliberation. Fill out a speaker form available at the back of the board room and give it to the Board Clerk. Unless otherwise recognized by the presiding officer, testimony is taken in the order the forms are submitted.

BOARD CLERK: WHEN I CALL YOUR NAME PLEASE COME FORWARD. I WILL CALL FORWARD A TIME. [READS NAMES]

BRUCE BRUSSARD: I AM BRUCE BRUSSARD A CANDIDATE FOR DISTRICT NUMBER 2. COULD YOU PLEASE STAND AND JOIN ME IN PLEDGING ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG? THIS IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH, AND WE RECOGNIZE THE FLAG. I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND TO THE REPUBLIC FOR WHICH IT STANDS, ONE NATION UNDER GOD, INDIVISIBLE, WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. IN ALL DUE RESPECT I NOTICED THE AGENDA THIS MORNING, AND I THOUGHT THAT MAYBE THAT I THINK COMMISSIONER SMITH GAVELED THE WAPATO SITUATION. I WANTED TO SEE WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT. IS THAT GOING TO BE CARRIED OVER? THE COMMISSIONER, THE COMMISSIONER CHAIR IS DEBORAH KAFOURY WILL NOT BE HERE TODAY, RIGHT?

VICE-CHAIR STEGMANN: CORRECT.

BRUCE BRUSSARD: HAS IT BEEN CARRIED OVER SO WE CAN COMMENT ON THAT OR WHAT?

VICE-CHAIR STEGMANN: THIS IS NOT A TIME FOR QUESTIONS, BUT CERTAINLY THERE IS STAFF, I SEE ADAM IN THE BACKGROUND AND KIM AND THEY CAN ADDRESS THAT.

BRUCE BROUSSARD: I WAS THINKING THAT THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED LAST WEEK, OKAY. GOOD. I JUST WANTED TO MAKE A COUPLE OF COMMENTS IS THAT I GUESS THE WAPATO SITUATION HERE ON FEBRUARY 13, IT SAYS COUNTY SAYS DEVELOPER HAS UNTIL MARCH 26 TO EVALUATE THE PROPERTY. AND I THOUGHT THAT THAT WAS KIND OF INTERESTING. AND I READ IT. AND I WOULD SUGGEST VERY MUCH IF YOU CHECK IT OUT BECAUSE YOU KNOW, REALLY THERE IS OPPORTUNITY THERE, FOLKS THAT WERE WAITING, AND A PERSON BY THE NAME OF HOMER WILLIAMS, AND HE MADE AN INDICATION THAT HE WAS VERY INTERESTED IN MAY BE MAKING SURE THAT THIS WAS LOOKED AT VERY SERIOUSLY AS A SHELTER, IF YOU WILL,

FOR THE HOMELESS. AND I THOUGHT THAT THAT WAS INTERESTING AND LOOKED LIKE SOMEBODY SHOULD TALK TO THAT PIECE. SO IT'S BACK ON THE TABLE, AND I THINK IT'S A VERY IMPORTANT ISSUE BECAUSE I THINK THAT WE ARE ALL CONCERNED BUT THE WHOLE ISSUE OF HOMELESS IN THE COUNTIES. THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICTS IF YOU WILL, THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY SO THAT -- SO I THINK IT WOULD BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO TALK ABOUT THAT STUFF, SO IT WAS VERY, VERY IMPORTANT BUT I AM VERY CONCERNED AND THERE IS THINGS, QUOTES THAT WERE MADE IN THAT PARTICULAR ARTICLE THAT SORT OF CONCERNS ME. I WON'T GET INVOLVED IN THAT PIECE AND HOPEFULLY THE CHAIR COULD BE HERE WHEN WE TALK ABOUT THIS PIECE AND HOPEFULLY YOU WILL GIVE US THE OPPORTUNITY TO BEGIN TO TALK ABOUT THIS ISSUE. I REALIZE THAT THIS HAS BEEN AN ALBATROSS AROUND THE NECK AS FAR AS THE COUNTY IS CONCERNED, AND THE ISSUE OF HOMELESSNESS IS STILL A MAJOR ISSUE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY, THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY, AND IN DISTRICT NUMBER TWO AND I AM SURE THAT THE COMMISSIONER IS VERY AWARE OF THE FACT THAT IT'S ALMOST LIKE GROUND ZERO, STILL HAVING MAJOR ISSUES WITH HOMELESSNESS AND OTHER ISSUES, IF YOU WILL. SO THAT'S MY COMMENTS SO I WILL WAIT AND HOPEFULLY YOU WILL HAVE THE DISCUSSION. I UNDERSTAND NEXT WEEKEND YOU WILL NOT BE HERE, BUT THE FOLLOWING. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

VICE-CHAIR STEGMANN: THANK YOU.

INJURED AND PISSED OFF: MY NAME IS INJURED AND PISSED OFF, AND I TALKED TO THE CITY COUNCIL YESTERDAY, AND PEOPLE CAN SEE THAT ONLINE AS WELL AS I TALKED HERE ON THE FIRST OF THE MONTH, AND IF THEY NOTICED I WAS NOT STANDING WITH THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE BECAUSE I DON'T ANY MORE BELIEVE IN THAT LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL. IF YOU WATCH THOSE VIDEOS YOU WILL UNDERSTAND WHY. I WANTED TO SAY THAT BEFORE I DISCUSSED MEETING YESTERDAY AT CITY HALL, THAT SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE HAD A SKETCH BACK IN 1981. IT WAS LATE TOWARDS DECEMBER OR EARLY JANUARY OF 1982, AND THEY HAD A COUPLE OF CHARACTER ACTORS, AND THEY WERE SAYING THAT WHAT IF THE IMPERSONATOR WAS IMPERSONATING [INAUDIBLE] ON CANDID CAMERA, AND THEY SAID WHAT IF WE SEND OUT A CREW TO A NEW YORK STREET CORNER AND DOWNTOWN NEW YORK, AND WALKED UP TO A BLIND GUY WITH HIS GUIDE DOG, AND TIED IT -- TRIED TO TAKE THE GUIDE DOG AWAY FROM THE BLIND PERSON AND TIE A PIG TO HIM. AND THE PIG HAD RUN AROUND THE BLIND GUY, AND OF COURSE YOU KNOW I ASSUMED THAT IT WAS JUST AN ACTOR AND THINGS. BUT I WAS WATCHING THE PROGRAM, AND MY GIRLFRIEND AT THE TIME WAS SITTING ON MY LAP, AND SHE SAYS THAT'S NOT FUNNY. AND I JUST STARTED TO CRACK UP AND SHE SAYS THAT IS NOT FUNNY AT ALL. WELL, IF YOU WATCH THE VIDEOTAPE OF, AS I WAS SAYING THE MEETING HERE ON THE 1ST, AND THE MEETING AT CITY HALL FROM YESTERDAY, VALENTINE'S DAY, YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND THE POINT THAT I

AM TRYING TO MAKE. THAT'S JUST A BLIND PERSON. OF COURSE MY SERVICE ANIMAL BEING ATTACKED SEVEN TIMES BY THE SAME DOG JUST BECAUSE THE CITY OWNS THE PROPERTY AND WOULDN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT, DOESN'T ALLOW THEM TO HAVE A CIVIL CONSPIRACY. THAT'S WHERE TWO OR MORE PEOPLE DECIDE TO EVADE JUSTICE FOR ANYBODY. THAT'S CLEARLY WHAT THE CITY AND COUNTY AND THE STATE HAS DONE FOR MYSELF, AND THERE IS NO STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS. THAT'S HOW THEY GET THESE PEOPLE THAT COMMIT MAJOR OFFENSES, ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE GYMNASTICS, YOU HAVE HEARD ABOUT THAT, AND OF COURSE, THE CATHOLIC PRIEST DEAL. WHAT THE CHILD MOLESTATIONS. THANK YOU, AND I WILL HAND IN THIS.

LIGHTNING: YES, MY NAME IS LIGHTNING AND I REPRESENT LIGHTNING SUPER JUSTICE WATCHDOG. AGAIN WHAT I WANT TO EMPHASIZE TO MULTNOMAH COUNTY IS AGAIN TO START FOCUSING ON THE METRO AFFORDABLE HOUSING BOND. AGAIN I DID A SPEECH IN FRONT OF THE COMMISSIONERS LAST WEEK, AND MY POSITION IS THAT WE WANT TO USE THAT MONEY, THEY ARE TALKING SOMEWHERE AROUND 500 MILLION, MAYBE UP TO 750 MILLION. WE WANT TO USE THAT MONEY TO DEVELOP NEW UNITS. WE WANT TO CREATE JOBS. WE WANT TO SHOW THE BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITIES BY BUILDING NEW, AND AGAIN WE'RE TALKING SOMEWHERE FROM 500 MILLION TO 750 MILLION. AS YOU KNOW AT THE CITY OF PORTLAND WE WERE AT 250 MILLION TALKING ABOUT A 13, MAYBE 1500 UNIT CAPACITY. SO WHEN WE'RE TALKING THE 500 MILLION WE MIGHT BE AS HIGH AS MAYBE 3,000 TO 4,500 UNITS, BUT HERE'S WHERE WE NEED TO WATCH THIS CLOSE NOW WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING AT METRO. THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT DOING IT, AN AMENDMENT TO THE OREGON CONSTITUTION ON HOW WE CAN USE THE BOND MONEY.

NOW IF THEY ARE ABLE TO DO THAT, WHAT THAT WILL MEAN IS THAT WE'RE GOING TO HAVE MORE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS. SO WHEN I AM TALKING A NUMBER OF 4,500 UNITS POSSIBLY, WE COULD BE TALKING A LOT MORE. THAT'S HARD TO CALCULATE UNTIL YOU GET INTO THE NUMBERS, BUT THAT'S GOING TO BE A BIG CHANGE. SO AGAIN, FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY IF YOU WANT MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING, GET INVOLVED ON THIS METRO BOND, AND BEGIN TO START UNDERSTANDING WHY YOU WANT TO REFINE THE TERMS ON WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH THE MONEY AND WHY IT'S SO IMPORTANT BY LOOKING AT WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE CITY OF PORTLAND AND THEN REFINING WHAT CAN HAPPEN AT METRO AND THEN POSSIBLY EVEN AT MULTNOMAH COUNTY DOWN THE LINE, SO THIS IS A BIG ISSUE. STAY INVOLVED ON THIS. IT WILL NOT HIT THE BALLOT UNTIL SOMETIME IN NOVEMBER. THE REALITY IS THAT WE NEED TO FOCUS ON THIS. THIS IS RESOURCES THAT WE HAVE NEVER SEEN BEFORE, ANYWHERE FROM 500 MILLION TO 750, AND THIS IS HAPPENING AT METRO. THE COMMUNITIES NEED TO HAVE INPUT ON THIS. IT'S ALSO A JOB CREATION BOND HELPING ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING. ASSISTING WITH THE HOMELESS ISSUES. AND AGAIN

THE COMMUNITIES WILL BENEFIT, AND AGAIN, WE NEED TO FOCUS ON THE TAX REFORM, I THINK THAT THE TIMING AND THE MARKET IS RIGHT TO DO THIS. I THINK THAT THE COMMUNITIES AND THE PUBLIC WILL BE OPEN TO THIS. I THINK THAT THE BENEFITS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES. IF YOU WANT MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING, NOW IS THE TIME TO FOCUS ON THE RESOURCES WHICH IS THE METRO BOND AT THIS TIME, WHICH IS A REGIONAL BOND, AND AGAIN THEY ARE DOING A GREAT JOB AT THIS TIME, BUT IT'S NOW IN THE -- GETTING EVERYTHING PUT TOGETHER AND REFINING WHAT IS HAPPENING AT THE CITY OF PORTLAND AND SHOWING THE BENEFITS ON CHANGING THE OREGON CONSTITUTION AND AMENDING IT AND ALLOWING MORE USES CURRENTLY ON THE BOND ITSELF, WHICH WILL BE ONE OF THE BIGGEST BENEFITS THAT WE'LL SEE AT THIS TIME. THANK YOU.

VICE-CHAIR STEGMANN: THANK YOU.

BORA HARRIS: GOOD MORNING. THE COMMISSIONERS HAVE ALREADY BEEN ADDRESSED AND I AM SORRY THAT CHAIR KAFOURY ISN'T HERE. I AM BORA HARRIS. PRESIDENT OF THE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE, LLC, DIVERSITY CONSULTANT AND COMMUNITY SERVANT. THIS MONTH OF FEBRUARY COMMEMORATES THE NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH. PLEASE ALLOW ME TO SHARE THE LYRICS OF A POEM FROM A RENOWNED AFRICAN-AMERICAN POET, LANGSTON HUGHES, MOTHER TO SON. WELL, SON, I WILL TELL YOU LIFE FOR ME AIN'T BEEN NO CRYSTAL. IT HAD TACKS IN IT AND SPLINTER AND BOARDS TORN UP, AND PLACES WITH NO CARPET ON THE FLOOR. BARE. BUT ALL THE TIME I'VE BEEN CLIMBING ON AND REACHING LANDINGS AND TURNING CORNERS AND SOMETIMES GOING IN THE, DA WHERE THERE AIN'T BEEN NO LIGHT. SO DON'T YOU TURN BACK. DON'T YOU SIT ON THE STEPS BECAUSE YOU FIND IT'S KIND OF HARD.

DON'T YOU FALL NOW, FOR I STILL CLIMBING HONEY, I STILL CLIMBING, AND LIFE FOR ME AIN'T BEEN NO CRYSTAL STAIR. AS I SAY I AM SORRY CHAIR KAFOURY ISN'T HERE BUT CHAIR KAFOURY IT APPEARS YOU HAVE PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE TO PUT THE TACKS AND BOARDS TO KEEP PEOPLE FROM CLIMBING THOSE STAIRS, THE USE ARE DEGRADING LANGUAGE TO REFER TO A PEOPLE IS BAD. YOU OPTED NOT TO RESIGN BUT SEEK ENTITLEMENT FOR RE-ELECTION. THE PEOPLE OF MULTNOMAH COUNTY SHOULDN'T SIT ON THE STEPS AND ALLOW THE TACKS, THE SPLINTERS, THE BOARDS, TO CONTINUE TO HINDER PEOPLE FROM I AM COLORING THE LADDER. IN THE WORDS OF [INAUDIBLE] LET IT GO. IN A WORD FROM BORA HARRIS, RESIGN. IN THE SAME MESSAGE BY T.G. JAKES, HIS COMMENTS WERE, IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT YOU ARE A BAD PERSON. IT JUST MEANS THAT YOUR PART IN THE STORY IS OVER. COUNTY CHAIR KAFOURY, YOUR PART IN THIS STORY AS CHAIR SHOULD BE OVER. CHAIR KAFOURY, AND I DO BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE LISTENING TO THIS BEING STREAMED, LET IT GO SO THE COUNTY CAN MOVE FORWARD. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

VICE-CHAIR STEGMANN: THANK YOU.

BOARD CLERK: WE HAVE TWO MORE, UNFORTUNATELY SOMEONE FILLED OUT A FORM WITH THE DATE BUT DID NOT PUT THEIR NAME, SO IT'S VERY NICE HANDWRITING BUT NO NAME SO IF THEY COULD COME FORWARD, PLEASE. I ALSO HAVE MCJNW. IS THAT YOU? OKAY.

VICE-CHAIR STEGMANN: GOOD MORNING. WHO WOULD LIKE TO GO FIRST?

CHARLES BRIDGECRANE JOHNSON: GOOD MORNING COMMISSIONERS. FOR THE RECORD, I AM CHARLES BRIDGECRANE JOHNSON. I APPRECIATE THAT WE HAD A MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR THE TRAGEDY, SO FAR 17 PEOPLE LOST IN FLORIDA. AND THAT WE MANAGED TO MAKE IT THROUGH THAT WITHOUT SAYING THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS. WHAT WE SHOULD SAY IS THAT IT HAS BEEN LESS THAN THREE YEARS SINCE A LOWER BODY COUNT HAPPENED ON I-5, AND UMPQUA. AND I AM NOT ONE, DIFFERENT PEOPLE ARE AGITATED AT DIFFERENT LEVELS FOR SOME KIND OF RESPONSE, BUT WHAT IS IT THAT IS MAKING YOUNG MEN DO THIS? DOES KILLER AND UMPQUA WAS UNDER 30? THIS GUY IS UNDER 20? THE GOVERNOR OF FLORIDA HAS TALKED ABOUT KEEPING -- TAKING STEPS TO REDUCE THE ACCESS FOR PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES TO GUNS. COMMISSIONER MEIERAN IS VERY WELL AWARE THAT THE SYSTEMS THAT WE HAVE IN PLACE THAT DEAL WITH MENTAL HEALTH STATUS ARE RATHER A TATTERED NET SO I DON'T THINK THAT -- WHEN WE TRY TO LINK MENTAL HEALTH STATUS -- I THINK THAT WE SHOULD HAVE A SYSTEM IN PLACE SO THAT PEOPLE WHO ARE COMPETENT AND FULLY AWARE AND GETTING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THAT'S GOING TO AFFECT THEIR GUN RIGHTS, BUT SOME PEOPLE IN THE MENTAL HEALTH STATUS ARE GOING TO MAKE AN EITHER-OR DETERMINATION SO IT DOES NOT SEEM LIKE QUITE A PERFECT SOLUTION.

WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT WHILE MASS SHOOTINGS ARE GROSS, WE LOSE EVEN MORE PEOPLE TO GUN SUICIDE. SO THE ENERGY IS BETTER SPENT SIMPLY IMPROVING THE MENTAL HEALTH SAFETY NET AND SERVICES THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO OURSELVES AND OUR NEIGHBORS RATHER THAN PUTTING A HUGE AMOUNT OF ENERGY INTO LINKING WHAT WE KNOW BUT THE PEOPLE GETTING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AND THEIR ACCESS TO GUNS, WHICH YOU KNOW, MOST PEOPLE HAVE DECIDED THAT THEY DON'T WANT TO DO VIOLENCE. THEY WANT TO FIND A WAY OUT, AND THEY ARE GREAT, THEIR GREAT FRUSTRATION IS THAT WE DON'T FUND ENOUGH WAYS OUT. WE DON'T BRING IN THE TALENT, ENOUGH TALENT AND RESOURCEFUL PEOPLE TO DEAL WITH THOSE SITUATIONS, SO I APPRECIATED THIS COUNTY COMMISSION'S COMMITMENT TO TRYING TO IMPROVE THAT. THAT IS, ACTUALLY, NOT GOING -- IT DOESN'T MEAN WE WON'T HAVE A MASS SHOOTING ABOUT YOU LESS PEOPLE DYING FROM SUICIDE AND VIOLENCE, DOMESTIC PARTNER VIOLENCE AND ALL THOSE. WE HAVE HAD ONE PERSON MENTION WAPATO, THERE IS ANOTHER ISSUE OF MENTAL HEALTH STRESS. AND WE HAVE THOUSANDS OF

PEOPLE ON THE STREETS, AND I HOPE WE WILL CONSIDER THE INVESTMENT ON THIS ROAD, VIS-A-VIS WAPATO CITY.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY: GOOD MORNING COMMISSIONERS. MADAM CHAIR, VICE CHAIR STEGMANN. FOR THE RECORD I AM THE PRESIDENT OF NEW CENTURY JUSTICE NETWORK, CIVIL RIGHTS ORGANIZATION. MY PURPOSE FOR BEING HERE TODAY, AND I ECHO THE SENTIMENTS OF THE BLACK QUEEN HERE EARLIER TALKING ABOUT THE CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY. WE SHOULD DESIGNATE THE ENTIRE YEAR TO CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY, NOT JUST A MONTH. 450 YEARS WE HAVE BUILT THIS NATION, AS BLACK PEOPLE, AND WE ARE STILL SUFFERING AT THE HANDS OF OPPRESSION. CHAIR KAFOURY, WHEREVER YOU ARE, IF YOU ARE WATCHING THIS MEETING, THE DEMAND IS THAT YOU RESIGN, THAT YOU RESIGN AND RESIGN NOW FOR YOUR DESPICABLE CONDUCT, DISPARAGING REMARKS OF CALLING COMMISSIONER SMITH A BITCH. COMMISSIONER YOU HAVE BEEN SILENT, AND YOUR SILENCE IS CONSENT, CONDONING THE BEHAVIOR OF CHAIR KAFOURY.

VICE CHAIR STEGMANN YOU HAVE BEEN SILENT SANCTIONING THE DESPICABLE CONDUCT OF CHAIRWOMAN KAFOURY. COMMISSIONER PEDERSON, YOU HAVE BEEN SILENT AND THIS IS DESPICABLE [INAUDIBLE] THE BLACK COMMISSIONER TO CALL THE COMMISSIONER SMITH A BITCH. BY CALLING HER A BITCH YOU ARE SAYING THAT EVERY BLACK WOMAN AROUND THE WORLD ARE BITCHES. EVERY BLACK LITTLE GIRL WHO LIVES IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY IN THE STATE OF OREGON, THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES ARE BITCHES. NOT JUST REFERENCING TO THE COMMISSIONER LORETTA SMITH, AND THAT'S THE REASON WHY WE DEMAND CHAIRWOMAN KAFOURY, YOUR IMMEDIATE RESIGNATION. WE MAY FORGIVE YOU BUT ONLY FORGIVENESS COMES WITH THAT IS YOUR RESIGNATION. THE CITIZENS OF PORTLAND, OF THIS COUNTY SHOULD NEVER ALLOW THIS CHAIRWOMAN TO BE RE-ELECTED, AND IF SHE GETS RE-ELECTED I WILL SAY WITHOUT ANY QUESTION, WE MUST DEMAND AND CONTINUE TO DEMAND HER RESIGNATION BECAUSE SHE HAS EMBARRASSED THIS COUNTY AND THE POSITION THAT SHE SITS IN TO DO JUSTICE BY THE CITIZENS WHO PUT HER INTO OFFICE. MY RESOLVE IS AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE YOUR DEMAND, THE DEMAND THAT WE HAVE OF YOU CHAIRWOMAN KAFOURY, FOR YOU TO RESIGN.

IT'S PAINFUL. IT'S DISTURBING AND HEART WRENCHING FOR YOU TO KNOW THAT AS YOU CELEBRATE YOU PUT THE ISSUES ON THE TABLE FOR BLACK HISTORY YOU STILL DESPICABLE, YOUR COMMENT, SO DISPARAGING AND DISRESPECTFUL. AND I HOLD YOU COMMISSIONERS ACCOUNTABLE WHO ARE SILENT. AND ANY OTHER ISSUES YOU WILL HAVE SPOKEN UP BUT YOU HAVE BEEN SILENT, THAT MEANS THAT YOU ARE JUST DEMONSTRATING THAT YOUR CHARACTER JUST THE SAME WAY AS CHAIRWOMAN KAFOURY BECAUSE OF YOUR SILENCE. AGAIN I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND LISTENING. THE DEMAND IS REAL. AND IT'S HOT. ONE LAST COMMENT, AMERICA NEVER HAS BEEN FOR ME BUT ALWAYS BEEN FOR YOU, AND HE SAID ONE DAY I PRY

THAT AMERICA WILL BE FOR ME, LIKE IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN FOR YOU AS WE CELEBRATE THE OPPRESSION OF BLACK PEOPLE IN THIS AMERICA. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

VICE-CHAIR STEGMANN: THANK YOU.

REGULAR AGENDA

- R.1 Proclamation Proclaiming February 2018 as Black History Month and Black Future Month in Multnomah County, Oregon. Sponsor: Commissioner Loretta Smith, District Two. Presenters: Callie Love and Invited Guests (20 min)**

VICE-CHAIR STEGMANN: IT'S BEEN MOVED BY COMMISSIONER VEGA PEDERSON AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MEIERAN FOR THE APPROVAL OF R1.

COMMISSIONER SMITH: THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING TODAY. I JUST WANT TO GIVE A COUPLE OF WORDS ABOUT OUR FIRST BLACK HISTORY MONTH. WE GATHERED HERE TOGETHER TODAY FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH WHICH HONORS THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF BLACK AMERICANS AND THE ROLE THAT WE HAVE PLAYED IN SHAPING AMERICA. FOR ME IT IS BITTERSWEET. I HAVE ALL THE JOY THAT GOES INTO BEING WITH ALL OF YOU TO CELEBRATE THIS OCCASION. BUT IT'S NEVER FAR FROM MY MIND THAT THIS IS, THIS IS THE LAST TIME THAT I WILL BE CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH AS A MULTNOMAH COUNTY COMMISSIONER SINCE TAKING OFFICE IN 2010 IT SEEMS LIKE THE WHOLE WORLD HAS CHANGED. THINK ABOUT IT A MINUTE. WHEN I CAME INTO OFFICE PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA HAD ONLY BEEN IN OFFICE FOR TWO YEARS. TRAVON MARTIN WAS JUST A 15-YEAR-OLD KID IN FLORIDA WITH NO ONE HAD HEARD OF.

THE BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT WAS STILL MANY YEARS IN THE FUTURE. AND I DON'T THINK THAT ONE OF US SITTING HERE COULD HAVE PREDICTED THE RACIST PROTEST AND VIOLENCE THAT GREW OUT OF THE WHITE NATIONALIST RALLY IN CHARLOTTESVILLE LAST AUGUST. THE COUNTRY FEELS LIKE IT IS ON FIRE RIGHT NOW. AND SO AS WE CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH, I THINK THAT IT'S CRITICAL THAT WE TAKE A MINUTE TO REALLY ACKNOWLEDGE OUR HISTORY, TO EVALUATE OUR PRESENT AND TO DEDICATE OURSELVES TO FUTURE. ACROSS THE COUNTRY THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY IS DEDICATED TO CELEBRATING AND INSURING THE HISTORY OF BLACK AMERICANS IS NOT FORGOTTEN. THE VERY FACT THAT WE HAVE A BLACK HISTORY MONTH IS THANKS TO A MAN WHO HIMSELF WAS BORN INTO SLAVERY. BACK IN 1926 AFTER GRADUATING FROM HARVARD UNIVERSITY AND NINE YEARS AFTER HE FORMED THE ASSOCIATION OF THE STUDY OF NEGRO LIFE AND HISTORY, CARTER G. WOODSON ESTABLISHED NEGRO HISTORY WEEK IN 1926. WOODSON BECAME A PROMINENT HISTORIAN AND WORKED ALONGSIDE OTHER DISTINGUISHED LEADERS TO USE THIS WEEK TO

BRING ATTENTION TO THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF BLACK AMERICANS. PRIOR TO WOODSON, THERE HAD BEEN NO REAL DOCUMENTED HISTORY IN THE UNITED STATES FOR BLACK AND BROWN AMERICANS. THE SECOND WEEK OF FEBRUARY WAS CHOSEN AS IT COINCIDES WITH THE BIRTHDAY OF CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER AUTHOR AND ORATOR FRED LICK DOUGLAS.

COMMISSIONER SMITH: IT WAS NOT ANYTHING 1976 THAT NEGRO HISTORY WEEK BECAME BARACK HISTORY MONTH. RIGHT HERE IN OREGON WE HAVE OUR OWN UNIQUE STORY. OREGON ENTERED THE UNION IN 1859 AS THE ONLY STATE WITH A CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION THAT PROHIBITED PEOPLE OF COLOR FROM SETTLING HERE. ADDITIONALLY THERE WAS A CLAUSE THAT EXPLICITLY BANNED PEOPLE OF COLOR FROM VOTING. OREGON WAS THE ONLY STATE IN THE UNIFORMED AS A WHITE HOMELAND. AND THOSE FOLKS WHO DARE TO DEFY THIS BAN WERE SUBJECT TO PUBLIC WHIPPING EVERY SIX MONTHS. AND THEN LATER PUSHED INTO FORCED LABOR. AS PROFESSOR [INAUDIBLE] FROM PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY STATES BLACKS IN OREGON BECAME THE FIRST ILLEGAL ALIENS. AND WHILE THE 15TH AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION, WHICH GRANTED BLACK MEN THE RIGHT TO VOTE PASSED IN 1870, IT WAS NOT UNTIL THE 1920S THAT THIS SO-CALLED EXCLUSION LAW WAS REMOVED FROM THE OREGON CONSTITUTION. ONCE THE EXCLUSION LAW WAS LIFTED AND BLACKS GOT THE VOTE, THE STATE LEVIED PULL TAXES, BUT THAT'S NOT ALL. IN 1886 OREGON RESCINDED ITS ADOPTION OF THE 14TH AMENDMENT, FOR THOSE OF US WHO MAY NOT REMEMBER THE 14TH AMENDMENT GRANTS CITIZENSHIP TO ANY PERSON BORN IN THE UNITED STATES AND DECLARES THAT STATES MAY NOT DENY CITIZENS OF THEIR LIFE, THEIR LIBERTY, AND PROPERTY WITHOUT DUE PROCESS OF LAW. AT THE TIME THAT THE CLAIM WAS THAT TWO LEGISLATORS WHO VOTED TO RATIFY HAD BEEN ILLEGALLY ELECTED, AND THEREFORE, THEIR VOTES COULDN'T BE COUNTED.

IT WAS NOT UNTIL 1973, 87 YEARS LATER, THAT THE OREGON LEGISLATURE TOOK STEPS TO CONFER RATIFICATION. HERE IN OREGON BLACKS WERE BANNED FROM JURIES AND FROM MARRYING WHITES, AND THESE LAWS WERE ON THE BOOKS UNTIL THE 1950S. THERE WERE NOT JUST LEGAL BARRIERS. FOR EXAMPLE THERE WERE SO-CALLED SUNDOWN LAWS. THESE LAWS ALLOW BLACKS TO PASS THROUGH TOWN, BUT THEY HAD TO LEAVE BY SUNDOWN. AMONG THOSE TOWNS WHERE MCMINNVILLE, OREGON CITY, SALEM, ASTORIA, AND GRANTS PASS. IN ALL THERE WERE 23 KNOWN SUNDOWN TOWNS IN OREGON. WHILE MANY SEE OREGON AS A PROGRESSIVE HAVEN, OREGON HAS NEVER BEEN IMMUNE FROM RAVAGES OF RACISM. BUT EVEN AS THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK SOUGHT TO EXCLUDE US WE HAD CHAMPIONS BATTLING FOR OUR RIGHTS. WE LOOK BACK AT THE BLACK PIONEERS OF OREGON AM THE FIRST RESIDENTS WHO DARED TO EXIST IN A PLACE WHERE THE LAW SAID THAT THEY COULD NOT. I THINK ABOUT HATTIE HEADMAN, WHOSE LEGACY WAS VIRTUALLY UNKNOWN UNTIL 2012. SHE WAS THE DAUGHTER OF SLAVES WHO BECAME A NOTED WOMEN'S

RIGHTS ACTIVIST AND A LEADER IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY. OR THE MEN AND WOMEN AND FAMILIES WHO CAME TO THE KAISER SHIPYARDS INCLUDING MY GRANDFATHER WHO CAME HERE FROM BROOKLYN, NEW YORK IN 1944 AND MADE UP THE CITY OF VAN PORT AND ALBINA NEIGHBORHOODS, IN THE FACE OF ALL THESE FORMAL BARRIERS THE PORTLAND CHAPTER OF THE NAACP FORMED, AND WE HAVE BECOME THE OLDEST CONTINUOUSLY CHARTER CHAPTER WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI FOUNDED IN 1914. THE PORTLAND CHAPTER OF THE NAACP WAS CRITICAL IN PASSING THE FINAL REPEAL OF THE VOTING EXCLUSION LAWS.

COMMISSIONER SMITH: AS I AM SURE EACH OF YOU CAN ATTEST TO WE HERE IN PORTLAND, OREGON, RIGHT HERE IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY HAVE NOT BEEN IMMUNE. TODAY IN THE PRESENT TENSE WE CONTINUE TO BATTLE RACISM. RACE I REMEMBER DOESN'T ALWAYS LOOK LIKE BLOODY SUNDAY IN SELMA WHEN PROTESTERS WERE BEATEN WITH CLUBS AND FIRE HOSES, OR EVEN LIKE CHARLOTTESVILLE WITH WHITE NATIONALISTS CARRYING TORCHES ACROSS A COLLEGE CAMPUS. RACISM TODAY IS OFTEN MUCH MORE SUBTLE. IT IS PERPETRATED BY OUR COLLEAGUES, AND IT IS EXPERIENCED AS MICRO-AGGRESSION. IT IS THE ENTRENCHED BIAS THAT MEANS IN THAT WE STILL HAVE TO WORK TWICE AS HARD TO GET HALF AS MUCH. IT'S THE MEDIA PORTRAYAL OF BLACK PORTLANDERS, ALWAYS ON THE TAKE YET THE SAME RULES AT PLAY DON'T APPLY TO OUR WHITE COLLEAGUES. AND JUST THE PAST YEAR WE HAVE WITNESSED THE STRENGTH AND THE COURAGE OF EMPLOYEES FROM ACROSS THE COUNTY SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER. MANY OF YOU HERE TODAY HAVE STOOD UP AND CALLED OUT THE ENTRENCHED BIAS AT THE COUNTY. I KNOW IT WASN'T EASY. I KNOW IT ISN'T EASY, BUT YOU INSPIRE ME EVERY DAY AS YOU FIGHT FOR A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD.

I ALSO NEED TO CALL OUT TWO GROUPS WHO ARE CENTRAL TO ALL OF THIS IMPORTANT WORK. THE MANAGERS OF COLOR. THESE GROUPS ARE COMPRISED OF DEDICATED EMPLOYEES WHO ENSURE WE NOT ONLY TALK ABOUT EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION, BUT THAT WE CODIFY AND PRACTICE THEM AS A DAILY BASIS. I WANT TO APPLAUD EACH OF YOU, EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU WHO ARE HERE TODAY. YOU ARE THE REASON THAT THE COUNTY CONTINUES TO MOVE FORWARD IN OUR EFFORT TO BE A MODEL EMPLOYER AND SERVICE PROVIDER. YOU BRING YOUR STRENGTH, YOUR VISION, YOUR ENERGY, AND YOUR UNBENDING WILLS TO WORK WITH US EVERY SINGLE DAY. NOW I WOULD LIKE TO TURN THIS OVER TO MISS NATASHA TO GET STARTED WITH OUR PRESENTATION. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR BEING HERE THIS MORNING.

NATASHA SMITH: GOOD MORNING. BEFORE I GO STARTED I WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE ALL OF THE EOC MEMBERS HERE IN THE AUDIENCE, IF YOU WOULD PLEASE STAND. [APPLAUSE] THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN COMING OUT. MY NAME IS NATASHA SMITH. I AM THE CHAIR OF THE

EMPLOYEES OF COLOR. THANK YOU COMMISSIONER SMITH FOR BRINGING FORTH THIS PROCLAMATION AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE TO THE COUNTY. BLACK HISTORY MONTH IS A TIME FOR CELEBRATION, ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND REFLECTION. TO THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE US AND MADE CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR SOCIETY. THIS IS ALSO A TIME TO RECOGNIZE THOSE AT MULTNOMAH COUNTY AND IN OUR COMMUNITY WHO CONTINUE TO SHOW UP AND STRIVE FOR CHANGE DESPITE INJUSTICES AND INEQUITIES. EOC'S MISSION IS TO ADVOCATE FOR RACIAL EQUITY, INCLUSION AND FAIRNESS IN THE WORKPLACE. WE ARE HONORED TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECOGNIZE TWO OF OUR OWN TODAY WHO CONTINUE TO LIVE BY THIS MISSION EVERY DAY AND HAVE BEEN A PRIME EXAMPLE OF BLACK EXCELLENCE HERE AT THE COUNTY.

NATASHA SMITH: COMMISSIONERS I ASK YOU JOIN EOC NEXT WEEK, NEXT WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21 AT 11:00 AS WE CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH HERE IN THE BOARDROOM. MY HOPE IS THAT WE KEEP THE CELEBRATION GOING BEYOND FEBRUARY 28. AS WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE EOC WOULD LIKE YOU TO PARTNER WITH US AS WE CONTINUE TO MAKE COUNTY-WIDE CHANGES WHEN WE COME BACK ON APRIL 5 TO BRING FORTH OUR WORKFORCE EQUITY STRATEGIC PLAN. SO JOIN US TODAY AS WE CELEBRATE BLACK EXCELLENCE AND BLACK ACHIEVEMENT HERE AT THE COUNTY IN HONORING FEBRUARY AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND BLACK FUTURE MONTH. NOW I WILL TURN IT OVER TO EBONY.

EBEN PULLMAN: THANK YOU. GOOD MORNING COMMISSIONER SMITH, COMMISSIONER MEIERAN, PEDERSON AND STEGMANN. I AM THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY SERVICES DIVISION, I AM EBEN PULLMAN. LARRY TURNER ASKED ME TO STAND IN HIS STEAD TO ACCEPT AND SPEAK TO THE RECOGNITION OF HIM THIS MORNING. HE SENDS HIS DEEPEST APOLOGIES FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO ATTEND, BUT ALSO IS VERY APPRECIATIVE AND GRATEFUL FOR THE RECOGNITION. I JUST WANT TO TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO READ LARRY'S STATEMENT. LARRY HAS BEEN A PART OF THE PORTLAND COMMUNITY FOR 57 YEARS. A QUESTION WAS ASKED OF LARRY, WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO SERVE OTHERS? HIS ANSWER WAS BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH PEOPLE AND WATCHING THEM GROW TO BE GREAT HUMANS TO HELP OTHERS. THIS JOB IS BOTH CHALLENGING AND REWARDING. I LOVE THIS WORK.

ALSO MENTORING NEW EMPLOYEES TO CONTINUE THE HARD WORK THAT'S NEEDED TO AFFECT CHANGE. LARRY WAS ASKED, WHAT DO YOU HOPE FOR IN THE FUTURE? WHAT IS YOUR MESSAGE THAT YOU WANT TO STATE AND LEAVE DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROCLAMATION? WE MUST LOOK WITHIN OURSELVES FOR HELP, STRENGTH, COURAGE, AND MUST CONTINUE TO STAND FOR THE RIGHTS OF OUR ANCESTORS WHO DIED FOR US. PEOPLE ARE LIKE GREETING CARDS. THEY HAVE A NICE GLOSSY OUTSIDE, BUT IF YOU DON'T OPEN IT UP AND READ WHAT'S INSIDE YOU WILL MISS THE REAL BEAUTY

OF EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING THAT PEOPLE HAVE TO OFFER. WE MUST BE KIND, BUT STAND FIRM ON WHAT IS RIGHT TO SPEAK OUR TRUTH. HERE AT MULTNOMAH COUNTY WE ARE CHARGED WITH TREATING OUR CLIENTS WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO THE CONTINUED EFFORTS THAT COME OUT OF THE WORKPLACE, WORKFORCE PROCLAMATION AND RESOLUTION. I LOOK FORWARD TO MOVING PAST TALKING AND GETTING THROUGH ACTION FOR A BETTER TOMORROW. I ALSO JUST WANT TO SAY THAT I HAVE HAD THE HONOR AND PRIVILEGE OF KNOWING LARRY FOR CLOSE TO 20 YEARS NOW. I WANT TO SAY THAT MY EARLIEST MEMORIES OF LARRY WAS WHEN I WAS ABOUT 23 YEARS OLD, AND HIS SUPERVISOR AND AS I THINK BACK I CAN ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT LARRY WAS VERY DEDICATED AND COMMITTED TO SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY.

EBEN PULLMAN: HE'S ALWAYS BEEN A PERSISTENT ADVOCATE, COURAGEOUSLY ADVOCATING AND PUSHING FOR ACCOUNTABILITY WITHIN OUR DIVISION, WITHIN THE COUNTY, AND WITHIN OUR CONTINUUM OF CARE TO ENSURE THAT WE CONTINUE TO IMPROVE AND ENHANCE THE SERVICES FOR THE BLACK COMMUNITY. I WANT TO SAY THAT I AM TRULY HONORED THAT LARRY ASKED ME TO SPEAK ON HIS BEHALF. I BELIEVE THAT HE TRULY EMBODIES WHAT PUBLIC SERVITUDE MEANS AND LOOKS LIKE AND I AM PROUD TO SAY THAT HE IS AN EMPLOYEE WITHIN OUR DIVISION. THANK YOU.

RAYMOND DESILVA: I HAD THE DISTINCT HONOR TO CELEBRATE AN HONOR TO UNSUNG HEROES TODAY. FIRST LARRY FOR HIS COMMITMENT AND DEDICATION IN OUR COMMUNITY. MANY OF US FROM EOC GIVE OUR HEARTFELT THANKS HOW YOU HAVE PAVED THE WAY FOR US, A YOUNGER GENERATION. UP NEXT WE HAVE MISS DOROTHY WHO HAS PAVED THE WAY AND THAT HAS BRIDGED THE GAP FOR MANY YEARS HERE IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY. SHE HAS BEEN THE LONGEST STANDING EOC MEMBER. 21 YEARS TO THE DATE. THERE'S BEEN REALLY HARD TIMES IN EOC WHERE THERE'S BEEN FOLKS MAYBE ONE TO THREE MEMBERS, THE SMALLEST EMPLOYEE RESOURCE GROUP IN THE COUNTY. SHE KEPT ON PRESSING ONWARD. THE LIGHTS THAT'S IN HER. IT'S ALWAYS SHINED BRIGHT. EVEN THOUGH WHEN PERHAPS THERE WERE NOT MANY AROUND. SOMETIMES WE HAVE TO SLOW DOWN TO SPEED UP. TODAY WE LOOK TO THOSE AND RECOGNIZE AND HONOR AND TO CELEBRATE THAT THOSE HAVE COME BEFORE US. MISS DOROTHY IS ONE OF MY GREATEST HEROES. A HERO FOR MANY OF US HERE IN THE COUNTY AND IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY. HAPPY OF US HAVE INTERACTED WITH HER THROUGHOUT THE YEARS AS SHE PREPARES FOR HER RETIREMENT LATER THIS SUMMER. TODAY WE HONOR YOU MISS DOROTHY. NOT JUST YOU AND YOUR LEGACY BUT YOUR FAMILY AS WELL. YESTERDAY AS SHE SHARED WITH ME SOME OF HER EARLIER YEARS SHE WAS RAISED IN ARKANSAS. AND IT WAS HER FAMILY, HER THREE SISTERS THAT WERE THE FIRST FAMILY TO ENTER AN INTEGRATED SCHOOL IN ARKANSAS FOR BLACK KIDS. IT WAS REALLY IMPORTANT THAT FIRST YEAR BECAUSE SHE SHARED IF HER SISTERS DID NOT GET THROUGH THAT FIRST

YEAR OTHER BLACK KIDS WILL NOT COME THE NEXT YEAR. TODAY WE NOT ONLY HONOR A LEGACY BUT PIONEERS OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH LIKE MISS DOROTHY AND OTHERS THAT ARE HERE TODAY. SHE ALSO SHARED THE EMPOWERMENT OF EOC. I QUITE SHE NEVER WORKED FOR AN ORGANIZATION LIKE EOC. IT HAS A PURPOSE FOR CHANGE. HER LIFE AND -- HAS CHANGED MANY LIVES, AND WE CELEBRATE AND HONOR YOU TODAY. THANK YOU.

DOROTHY CARROL: THANK YOU. LET ME JUST START BY SAYING THIS, TOO, IS MY LAST EOC BLACK HISTORY MONTH. BUT I WANT TO SAY I WOULD LIKE TO THANK MARY JO THOMAS, PAULINE AND ETHEL, WHO IS NOT HERE TODAY, SONJA, RASHEBA, PERCY, SHERRY, KEITH, AND RAYMOND. THESE ARE THE PEOPLE THAT KEPT EOC GOING AND THIS IS HOW WE ARE HERE TODAY. SO I WANT TO THANK THEM. FOR ME EOC IS NOT JUST ANOTHER ERG GROUP. THIS HAS BEEN MY FAMILY OVER THE LAST 21 YEARS. THIS IS HOW I TAKE CARE OF MYSELF. BY ATTENDING THE MONTHLY MEETINGS. I USED THE TIME TO HEAL, ENERGIZE MYSELF, AND FROM THE DAY-TO-DAY COUNTY, RACIAL AGGRESSIONS. THAT'S WHY IT IS IMPORTANT. WITHOUT THAT I DON'T KNOW IF I WOULD HAVE LASTED 21 YEARS. MAYBE I WOULD HAVE LASTED BUT I DON'T KNOW IF I WOULD FEEL AS GOOD AS I DO TODAY. WHEN RAYMOND ASKED ME TO SPEAK I TOLD HIM I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY BECAUSE I FELT SAD. I REALLY FEEL SAD AS I WATCH THE YEARS, GREAT WORK THEY HAVE DONE. IT MAKES ME WITH A BROADER AWARENESS TO THE COUNTY TO BE HEARD, BUT IF I SUM UP THE ACTIONS OVER THE LAST YEAR, THAT CAME FROM SOME OF MY COUNTY EMPLOYEES, IT HAS SADDENED ME TO SEE THE DISRESPECT OF BLACK WOMEN AND THE DISRESPECT OF PEOPLE OF COLOR SO IT'S BEEN, YOU KNOW, IT'S BITTERSWEET FOR ME BECAUSE WHEN I SAY THAT RAYMOND I AM JUST SO DISAPPOINTED IN THE DISRESPECT THAT HAS COME FROM SOME OF MY COLLEAGUES AT THE COUNTY. WITH THAT SAID I JUST WANT TO SAY WE DON'T WANT APOLOGIES. WE WANT ACTION. AND I THINK THAT WE HAVE GIVEN THE COUNTY OUR ACTS, SO IT'S NOT FOR THE COUNTY TO TAKE ACTION. AND THAT'S ALL THAT I HAVE TO SAY. THANK YOU.

COMMISSIONER SMITH: THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE. [APPLAUSE] ARE WE GOING TO SEE THE SLIDE SHOW?

COMMISSIONER SMITH: MADAM CHAIR VICE CHAIR I AM GOING TO READ THE PROCLAMATION AND WE'LL HAVE COMMENTS AFTERWARDS. PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 2018 AS BLACK HISTORY AND BLACK FUTURE MONTH IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON. THE MULTNOMAH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FINDS BLACK MONTH IS OBSERVED THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES TO CELEBRATE AND TO RECOGNIZE THE VITAL ROLE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF AFRICAN-AMERICANS IN OUR HISTORY AND CULTURE. BLACK HISTORY MONTH WAS FIRST CELEBRATED IN 1976 REPLACING NEGRO HISTORY WEEK WHICH WAS FIRST CELEBRATED IN 1926. AFRICAN-AMERICANS HAVE MADE AND CONTINUE TO MAKE SIGNATURE CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR COMMUNITY'S ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL, POLITICAL, ARTISTIC,

LITERARY, AND SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT DESPITE HISTORICAL AND CURRENT INJUSTICES. MULTNOMAH COUNTY RECOGNIZES THAT RACIAL AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY ENRICHES OUR COMMUNITY, THAT MULTNOMAH COUNTY RECOGNIZES THE CHALLENGES THAT AFRICAN-AMERICANS FACE IN ACHIEVING EQUITY, OPPORTUNITY, AND SOCIAL MOBILITY. MULTNOMAH COUNTY FURTHER RECOGNIZES THE EFFORTS OF THOSE ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE COUNTY THAT STRIVE TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR AFRICAN-AMERICANS THROUGH ADVOCACY, MENTORSHIP, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, OUTREACH, AND INCLUSION. MULTNOMAH COUNTY HONORS THE RICH HERITAGE, EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS, AND ONGOING ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF AFRICAN-AMERICANS.

COMMISSIONER SMITH: MULTNOMAH COUNTY HONORS AND CELEBRATES THE ROLES THAT OUR AFRICAN-AMERICAN EMPLOYEES PLAY IN WORKING TOWARDS ELIMINATING DISPARITIES IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITIES AND CREATING A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS. MULTNOMAH COUNTY HONORS THE WORKFORCE EQUITY CONTRIBUTIONS OF EMPLOYEES OF COLOR AND AFRICAN-AMERICAN EMPLOYEES THAT ENSURE SAFETY, TRUST, AND BELONGING FOR ALL IN OUR COMMUNITY. MULTNOMAH COUNTY CELEBRATES BLACK EXCELLENCE AND AFRICAN-AMERICAN ADVOCACY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE AND RACIAL JUSTICE AND HOPE NOT ONLY IN THIS MONTH BUT 365 DAYS A YEAR. THE MULTNOMAH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROCLAIMS FEBRUARY 2018 AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND BLACK FUTURE MONTH IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON, AND IN RECOGNITION AND CELEBRATION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF AFRICAN-AMERICANS TO OUR COMMUNITY.

VICE-CHAIR STEGMANN: THANK YOU COMMISSIONER SMITH. SO WE'RE GOING TO DO THINGS A BIT OUT OF ORDER. COMMISSIONER SMITH ASKED IF WE WOULD DO THINGS DIFFERENT SO WE WILL OPEN IT UP FOR BOARD COMMENTS FIRST. ANY COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD?

COMMISSIONER MEIERAN: I JUST WANT TO FIRST OF ALL THANK COMMISSIONER SMITH FOR BRINGING THIS FORWARD AND -- MY HEART GOES OUT TO YOU AS THIS BEING THE FINAL YEAR AS A COUNTY COMMISSIONER AND BRINGING THIS FORWARD. SO MANY YEARS OF SERVICE AND DEDICATION AND REALLY PERMANENTLY APPRECIATE YOUR GIFTS. SO THANK YOU FOR DOING THIS AND I UNDERSTAND HOW EMOTIONAL THIS IS. I ALSO WANT TO CONGRATULATE DOROTHY. I AM JUST REALLY -- I FEEL PRIVILEGED TO HAVE GOTTEN TO MEET YOU. I WAS ONLY HERE FOR ONE OF YOUR 21 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COUNTY. I WISH I COULD HAVE EXPERIENCED MORE OF THOSE, BUT EVEN FROM WHAT LITTLE I HAVE SEEN JUST -- YOU HAVE BEEN A GIFT AND THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU HAVE DONE AND FOR JUST BEING A BEACON AND FOR ALL KIND OF THE HOPE FOR THE FUTURE THAT YOU HAVE LEFT US WITH. WE KNOW WE NEED TO TAKE

ACTION AND NOT JUST THROW OUT MORE WORDS. I AM COMMITTED WITH I KNOW MY COLLEAGUES TO CONTINUE THAT SO THANK YOU. I AM REALLY HUMBLLED AND PROUD TO BE HERE TODAY AND TO BE CELEBRATING LOOKING BACK AT THE HISTORY, WHICH REALLY CAN'T BE CELEBRATED, WHICH HAS TO BE LOOKED AT WITH HORROR BUT CELEBRATING THE FUTURE THAT I KNOW THAT WE CAN ACHIEVE TOGETHER. THANK YOU.

COMMISSIONER VEGA PEDERSON: THANK YOU VERY MUCH AND COMMISSIONER SMITH FOR BRINGING FORWARD THIS AND I KNOW THAT THIS IS AN EMOTIONAL THING FOR YOU. I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR ADVOCACY AND THE DEDICATION TO THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY WITHIN MULTNOMAH COUNTY AND THE EMPLOYEES HERE AT THE COUNTY. I WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU FOR BEING HERE TODAY AND SHARING YOUR STORIES, DOROTHY AND LARRY WHO IS NOT HERE CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ACHIEVEMENT AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR YEARS OF SERVICE FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY AND FOR REALLY LIFTING UP AND MAKING SPACE AND VOICES FOR EMPLOYEES AND ALSO CREATING THE SPACE WHERE THE EMPLOYEES OF COLOR CAN COME TOGETHER AND SHARE THEIR STORIES AND FIND COMMUNITY BECAUSE YOU NEED THAT. YOU NEED THAT. WHEN WE ARE TALKING ABOUT, YOU KNOW, REALLY THE EXPERIENCE THAT PEOPLE OF COLOR HAVE WITH, WITH LIVING IN A SYSTEM OF WHITE SUPREMACY AND SYSTEMIC RACISM THAT IS EVERYWHERE, AND YOU KNOW WE TALKED A LOT BUT THE -- OR COMMISSIONER SMITH TALKED BUT THE HISTORY OF OREGON AND REALLY FACING THE TRUTH OF WHAT THE HISTORY IS, WHICH I THINK IS REALLY APPROPRIATE TO DO ESPECIALLY THIS WEEK WHEN IT IS OREGON'S BIRTHDAY, YOU KNOW, OF THE STATE, WHICH IS THIS WEEK, TOO, SO I THINK THAT'S APPROPRIATE THAT WE DO THAT. ALSO LOOKING AT OUR CITY, WE HAD A CHANCE TO VISIT THE ALBINA NEIGHBORHOOD WHERE YOU GREW UP NOT SO LONG AGO AND REALLY SEE HOW OUR COMMUNITY, OUR AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY HAS REALLY BEEN DESTROYED SYSTEMICALLY HERE, AND THAT WE HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO DO IN REBUILDING IT AND I THINK THAT THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY -- I LOVE THAT THIS IS A HISTORY AND A FUTURE FOR AFRICAN-AMERICANS BECAUSE THAT'S WHERE WE ARE RIGHT NOW, ABOUT BREAKING DOWN AND MAKING SPACE FOR VOICES AND A NEW WAY OF DOING THINGS THAT BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER AND MOVES US FORWARD. I HOPE THAT THIS PROCLAMATION TODAY IS JUST NOT WORDS LIKE COMMISSIONER MEIERAN SAID, BUT IT'S REALLY THE CALL TO ACTION THAT WE NEED IN ORDER TO DO THAT WORK TOGETHER. SO THANK YOU.

VICE-CHAIR STEGMANN: I WOULD LIKE TO THANK COMMISSIONER SMITH FOR BRINGING THIS PROCLAMATION FORWARD AND I APPRECIATE THE TITLE, "BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND BLACK FUTURE MONTH." THAT'S REALLY MEANINGFUL, AND WE HAVE TO LOOK TO THE FUTURE BUT ALSO KNOW WHERE WE CAME FROM AND HOW WE GOT THERE AND CAN MOVE FORWARD. THIS IS CHALLENGING FOR PEOPLE TO SHARE THE INEQUITIES THEY EXPERIENCED PERSONALLY AND IT'S ESPECIALLY HEART-BREAKING TO HEAR

THAT HAS OCCURRED IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY. WE AS A BOARD ROYCE AND HONOR THESE INEQUITIES THAT HAVE OCCURRED, AND I AM REALLY EXCITED THAT WE HAVE A WORKFORCE EQUITY STRATEGIC PLAN THAT YOU ALL HAVE SPEARHEADED FOR I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY YEARS, AND I AM JUST SO EXCITED TO SEE IT BE FORMALLY ADOPTED AND MOVED UPON SO WE ARE MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. I AM VERY HONORED TO BE PART OF THIS HISTORIC BOARD COMPRISING WOMEN, THE MAJORITY, WOMEN OF COLOR AND THAT IS AN INCREDIBLE THING, SO I KNOW THAT WE ARE HEADED IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

VICE-CHAIR STEGMANN: I AM PROUD TO WORK WITH -- I HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH RAYMOND AND NATASHA ON THE EMPLOYEES OF COLOR, AND THEY HAVE BEEN KIND ENOUGH TO TAKE ME AROUND ON TOURS. WE HAVE OTHER SCHEDULED SO THAT AS A COMMISSIONER I CAN HEAR FIRST HAND WHAT PEOPLE'S CONCERNS ARE, SO WE REALLY TAKE THIS VERY, VERY SERIOUSLY, AND WANT TO CREATE A CULTURE WHERE EVERYONE'S VOICE IS HEARD AND EVERYONE IS TREATED WITH RESPECT, AND THERE IS A CULTURE OF EQUITY AND ACCEPTANCE. SO I WANT TO THANK LARRY AND DOROTHY THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR SERVICE AND FOR CARRYING THE EOC TO WHERE IT IS TODAY. YOU HAVE GREAT FOLKS TO CONTINUE THAT FIGHT, AND IT'S JUST A GREAT HONOR TO BE HERE AND RECOGNIZE ALL THE SACRIFICES THAT EACH ONE OF YOU MADE. I PROMISE AS A COUNTY COMMISSIONER, AND I AM PRETTY SURE ALL MY COLLEAGUES FEEL THE SAME WAY IS THAT WE PROMISE TO DO BETTER. SO THANK YOU. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR OF THE -- DID YOU WANT TO MAKE ANOTHER REMARK? GO AHEAD.

COMMISSIONER SMITH: THANK YOU. THANK YOU MADAM CHAIR VICE CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS AND FOR YOUR KIND WORDS, AND BEFORE I DO MY CLOSING REMARKS I WANT MY STAFF TO STAND UP, PLEASE. ALL MY STAFF. CALLIE, THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR PUTTING TO GO THIS BOARD. IT IS INCREDIBLE. I KNOW THIS IS YOUR FIRST BLACK HISTORY MONTH, AND IT WAS REALLY, REALLY GOOD. IT IS REALLY, REALLY GOOD SO THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE. SHE'S AN AMAZING, AMAZING SINGLE MOTHER WHO IS VERY DEDICATED AND COMMITTED TO THE RESIDENTS, ALL THE RESIDENTS OF MULTNOMAH COUNTY, SO I THANK YOU VERY MUCH. AND MY CHIEF OF STAFF WHO KEEPS EVERYTHING TOGETHER MISS ELIZABETH. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR COMMITMENT AND YOUR DEDICATION. ALL YOUR HARD WORK NIGHTS, WEEKENDS, AND ALL THOSE THINGS, VERY MUCH APPRECIATED. AND GEORGE, THE ULTIMATE, THE ULTIMATE PUBLIC SERVANT. WHAT CAN I SAY ABOUT YOU? YOU HAVE SERVED ME WELL. YOU HAVE SERVED YOUR COUNTRY WELL. YOU ARE A GREAT AMERICAN, AND YOU MEAN SO MUCH TO ME. I THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR ALL YOUR SERVICE, YOUR WEEKEND WORK, YOUR NIGHT WORK. ALWAYS HAVING MY BACK. I HOPE THAT WE HAVE MANY, MANY MORE YEARS TO COME SO THANK YOU VERY MUCH. TO MISS DOROTHY. IT WAS SO GREAT TO HEAR YOU SPEAK

TODAY AND TALK ABOUT YOUR MANY YEARS OF COMMITMENT AND DEDICATION TO THIS COUNTY. I THANK ALL OF YOU, MISS NATASHA, EBONY, RAYMOND, I MET YOUR AUNT, I DIDN'T KNOW THAT WAS YOUR AUNT. AND YOU ALL COME FROM COMMUNITIES THAT, AND FAMILIES THAT HAVE PUT A LOT OF HARD WORK INTO THIS CITY. I KNOW THAT BEING IN A COUNTY WHERE YOU MIGHT FEEL LIKE YOU ARE THE MINORITY BUT I THINK THAT THIS IS ONE OF THE GREATEST HONORS THAT I HAVE HAD TO BE ABLE TO REPRESENT ALL OF YOU AND AS THE SECOND AFRICAN-AMERICAN IN THE HISTORY OF MULTNOMAH COUNTY I AM VERY PROUD TO BE ABLE TO STAND WITH YOU AND ALL OF THE EMPLOYEES ABOUT SOME OF THE THINGS THAT ARE GOING GOOD AND MAYBE NOT SO WELL. BUT THIS IS WHAT TODAY IS ABOUT. IT'S BUT THE PAST AND RECOGNIZING WHAT WE HAVE TO DO IN THE FUTURE, AND OUR FUTURE IS REALLY BRIGHT HERE. I AM HAPPY THAT WE HAVE A GROUP OF COMMISSIONERS THAT HAVE VALUES, THAT WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT WE TREAT EVERYBODY WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT.

COMMISSIONER SMITH: IT SADDENS ME THAT I WILL BE GONE IN TEN MONTHS BUT I WILL STILL SHARE MY VIEWS. I HAVE A FACEBOOK PAGE. BUT THIS IS GOOD BECAUSE I KNOW FOR SURE WHAT I KNOW FOR SURE AFRICAN-AMERICANS, BLACK AND BROWN AMERICANS, WE ARE FIGHTERS. TOGETHER WE HAVE BUILT THIS COUNTRY, THIS COUNTY, AND THIS CITY. DURING THE 2015 ADDRESS HONORING BLACK HISTORY MONTH PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA SAID WE CELEBRATE GIANTS OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT AND COUNTLESS OTHER MEN AND WOMEN WHOSE NAMES ARE ETCHED IN THE HEARTS OF THEIR LOVED ONES AND THE CORNERSTONES OF THE COUNTRY THAT THEY HELPED TO CHANGE. WE PAUSE TO REFLECT ON OUR PROGRESS AND OUR HISTORY, NOT ONLY TO REMEMBER BUT ALSO TO ACKNOWLEDGE OUR UNFINISHED WORK. WE REJECT THE FALSE NOTION THAT OUR CHALLENGES LIE ONLY IN THE PAST, AND WE RECOMMIT OURSELVES TO ADVANCING WHAT HAS BEEN LEFT UNDONE. THAT'S WHERE OUR FUTURE, OUR COLLECTIVE FUTURE LIES. WE ACKNOWLEDGE OUR HISTORY, AND THAT WE STAND ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS. WE STAND TOGETHER TODAY HAND IN HAND TO BATTLE THE STRUCTURAL RACISM THAT GREETUS US EVERY DAY AT WORK RIDING ON THE MAX AND AT THE GROCERY STORE. AND WE MOVE TOGETHER AHEAD FORWARD KNOWING THAT THERE IS WORK TO GET DONE AND THAT THIS TIME WE WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT MISS DOROTHY AND MR. TURNER WITH A CERTIFICATE AND SOME FLOWERS ON BEHALF OF DISTRICT 2 AND THE EMPLOYEES OF COLOR. [APPLAUSE] THIS IS ONE SHAWL WAY TO ACKNOWLEDGE YOU FOR YEARS OF YOUR SERVICE AND YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO MULTNOMAH COUNTY RESIDENTS AND EMPLOYEES. I WANT TO THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR SHARING YOUR STORIES WITH US TODAY AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE. IT MEANS SO MUCH.

VICE-CHAIR STEGMANN: BEFORE YOU LEAVE WE MUST VOTE. SO ALL THOSE IN FAVOR PLEASE VOTE AYE. THE PROCLAMATION IS ADOPTED. THANK YOU

VERY MUCH. [APPLAUSE] WE WOULD LIKE TO DO A QUICK PHOTO. WE WILL JUST TAKE A QUICK BREAK AND TAKE A QUICK PHOTO.

VICE-CHAIR STEGMANN: THERE IS SEATING IN THE FRONT THAT WE SAVED SPECIFICALLY FOR YOU SO DON'T BE SHY. COME ON UP.

R.2 Ratification of Collective Bargaining Agreement 2017-2020 between Multnomah County and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Local 88 (AFSCME Local 88). Presenters: Steve Herron, Labor Relations Director and Eben Pullman, AFSCME Council Representative. Presenter: Steve Herron (5 min)

STEVE HERRON: GOOD MORNING VICE CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS. I AM STEVE HERRON, THE LABOR RELATIONS DIRECTOR FOR THE COUNTY TO, MY LEFT, YOUR RIGHT IS EBEN PULLMAN, REPRESENTATIVE FROM AFSCME OREGON COUNCIL 75. TO HIS LEFT WINTER JR. THE LOCAL 88 PRESIDENT. THEY WILL HAVE REMARKS IN A MOMENT. THE ITEM BEFORE YOU ON TODAY'S AGENDA IS THE CONSIDERATION OF RATIFICATION OF THE TENTATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN MULTNOMAH COUNTY AND AFSCME LOCAL 88 FOR A THREE-YEAR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT. I WANT TO BEGIN BY IDENTIFYING AND THANKING THE PARTIES' TEAM MEMBERS ON THE AFSCME LOCAL 88 COUNCIL 75 SIDE OF THE TABLE JOCELYN BAKER, MATT DAVIS, RAYMOND, MEGAN, RITA, JASON, NICOLE, KARYNE, GRANT, JACKIE, NICK, PERCY, EBON, AND MIKAYLA. ON THE COUNTY SIDE OF THE TABLE I WANT TO THANK MANAGERS EBONY CLARK, CASSANDRA HERNANDEZ, CORY MURPHY AND TODD ROBERTS. H.R. REPRESENTATIVES PATTI, HOLLY, JOHN, JODI, KARYNE, JENNIFER CYNTHIA, JAMELA, AND SUSAN. FROM BUDGET OFFICE I WANT TO THANK SHANNON AND JEFF. WE ALSO HAD FROM BUDGET AND FROM BENEFITS MIKE AND KELLY HELP US OUT, AND FROM LABOR RELATIONS SHELLEY, CHRIS, AND DENISE. ALL THE FOLKS I JUST NAMED HAD ONE ROLE OR ANOTHER IN THE BARGAINING PROCESS.

I AM APPRECIATIVE FOR EACH ONE'S PARTICIPATION AND ROLE. THIS WAS A HEAVY LIFT. THE PARTIES HAD 16 BARGAINING SESSIONS BETWEEN MAY 26 OF 2017 AND JANUARY 12 OF THIS YEAR. THE PARTIES HAD APPROXIMATELY 65 DISCREET ISSUES THAT THEY WORKED THROUGH, THAT WE WORKED THROUGH AT THE TABLE. AND I AM HAPPY THIS YEAR THAT IT'S FORTUITOUS TIMING THAT WE SHARE THIS ON TODAY'S AGENDA WITH THE ITEM, AGENDA ITEM THAT CAME BEFORE US. THERE WAS AN UNPRECEDENTED COMMITMENT AT THE BARGAINING TABLE TO ISSUE, TO EXAMINING ISSUES THAT HAVE EQUITY RELATIONSHIP IN THE BARGAINING PROCESS. THAT INCLUDES THINGS LIKE LOOKING AT AND STRUCTURING SICK LEAVE, ACCESS FOR FOLKS ADDRESSING CITIZENSHIP ISSUES, EXPRESSLY RECOGNIZING, RECOGNIZING MICRO-AGGRESSION AS A PROHIBITIVE ACT OF PREJUDICE, AND ADDRESSING IMPLICIT BIAS AND PANEL DIVERSITY AND HIRING

PROMOTION PROCESSING AND EXTENDING A PREMIUM TO ASSIGNMENTS THAT REQUIRE CULTURAL COMPETENCY AND KNOWLEDGE AND KILLS AND ABILITIES ASSURING A MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE FOR THE LOWEST PAID TO OUR EMPLOYEES. THE PARTIES WADED INTO DIFFICULT AND CHALLENGING ISSUES. COLLECTIVE BARGAINING IS OFTEN AN EXERCISE IN IDENTIFYING ISSUES IN WHICH THE PARTIES HAVE, COMMON INTERESTS, WAYS IN WHICH THE PARTIES' INTERESTS DIFFER, AND STRIKING THE BALANCE BETWEEN THE WAYS IN WHICH THOSE INTERESTS ARE INTENTIONAL WITH ONE ANOTHER. AND I AM GRATEFUL TO THE UNION FOR THEIR PART FOR STEPPING INTO AND WORKING WITH US ON ADDRESSING AND CLEANING UP OUR PROCESSES AROUND ADDRESSING A CENTRAL EMPLOYEE ASSIGNMENT DURING INCLEMENT WEATHER AND WORKING WITH US ON PLAN DESIGN CHANGES IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT WE'RE WORKING TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY IN RELATION TO OUR MEDICAL DENTAL. THE PARTIES HAD A LOT ON THE PLATE AND WORKED THROUGH IT AND I AM GRATEFUL TO THE VARIOUS PARTICIPANTS FOR THE EFFORT AND VERY THOUGHTFUL PROCESS THAT WENT INTO THE BARGAINING THIS YEAR. WITH THAT I AM GOING TO TURN THE REMARKS OVER TO EBEN PULLMAN.

EBEN PULLMAN: THANK YOU STEVE. I AM EBEN PULLMAN. I AM COUNCIL 75 REPRESENTATIVE AND WAS A CHIEF NEGOTIATOR FOR THE BARGAINING TEAM. I WANTED TO START BY ACKNOWLEDGING AND APPRECIATING THE MOVEMENT AND COMPROMISES MADE BY THE NOT ONLY THE UNION BUT THE COUNTY AND STEVE'S BARGAINING TEAM IN REACHING THIS AGREEMENT. THAT'S ALWAYS A PART OF BARGAINING IS TRYING TO FIND A COMPROMISE THAT BOTH THE COUNTY AND THE UNION CAN LIVE WITH AND I FEEL THAT WE MADE A GOOD COMPROMISE AGREEMENT IN THIS ROUND. I JUST WANTED TO INDICATE THAT WE APPROACHED THIS BARGAINING WITH THE ASPIRATION OF DOING AN EVEN BETTER JOB THAN WE HAD IN YEAR'S PAST OF BEING INCLUSIVE OF THE MEMBERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE FROM THE NON-DOMINANT CULTURE. AND TO SEEK EQUITY WHERE IN THE PAST BIAS OR LACK OF AWARENESS DID NOT PROVIDE EQUITY FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS.

A FEW KEY AREAS THAT I WANT TO POINT OUT IS IN OUR CHANGE IN DEFINITION OF FAMILY FOR SICK AND BEREAVEMENT LEAVE WE HAVE BROADENED THE DEFINITION TO INCLUDE INDIVIDUALS WHO BY BLOOD OR AFFINITY SHARE CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS TO THE EMPLOYEE BECAUSE WE DON'T ALL HAVE THE FORTUNATE CIRCUMSTANCES OF HAVING A STRONG NUCLEAR FAMILY NETWORK TO FALL BACK ON OR TO BE ABLE TO SUPPORT IN THEIR TIME OF NEED. ALSO FOR THE FIRST TIME UNDER THIS AGREEMENT WE WILL BE PROVIDING COMPENSATION FOR EMPLOYEES THAT ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A HIGH LEVEL OF CULTURAL COMPETENCY FOR SERVING CERTAIN COMMUNITIES. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT THING TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WORK DESERVES FAIR PAY, AND BEING REQUIRED TO HAVE ADDITIONAL SKILLS AND RESPONSIBILITIES SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE COMPENSATION. ADDITIONALLY IN THE AREA OF IMMIGRATION LEAVE, AT A TIME WHERE

UNFORTUNATELY THE NATIONAL DISCUSSION WE HAVE DEEP THREADS OF HATE AND BLAME ON IMMIGRANT WORKERS AT THIS TIME WE'RE ABLE TO PROVIDE IMMIGRATION LEAVE WHERE OUR MEMBERS WHO ARE IMMIGRANTS OR HAVE FAMILY MEMBERS WHO ARE IMMIGRANTS ARE ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF THE NEEDS, WHETHER THAT'S TAKE A CITIZENSHIP TEST OR SEE THEIR ATTORNEY TO MAKE SURE THE VISA OR GREEN CARD IS IN ORDER, OR TO BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH A FAMILY MEMBER WHO IS DETAINED. THIS IS PROBABLY ONE OF THE FIRST AGREEMENTS THAT I AM AWARE OF THAT INCLUDES THIS CONCEPT OF IMMIGRATION LEAVE IN THE AGREEMENT.

EBEN PULLMAN: FINALLY, WE HAVE TAKEN A STEP TOWARDS LOOKING AT OUR HIRING PROCESS AND PANELS FOR BOTH CURRENT MEMBERS AS WELL AS FUTURE MEMBERS AND IN THE AREA OF EXAMINING IMPLICIT BIAS IN THE HIRING PROCESS AND ENCOURAGING PARTICIPATION FROM THE VARIOUS GROUPS OF MEMBERS AND COMPENSATING THOSE MEMBERS. IN ADDRESSING THESE ISSUES OUR, IN OUR CBA IT IS AN IMPORTANT FIRST STEP TOWARDS OUR SHARED GOALS OF EQUITABLE BENEFITS AND WORKING CONDITIONS. STEVE TALKED BUT THE CHANGES, AND I WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THESE CHANGES ARE MEANINGFUL AND IMPACTFUL, WE FELT LIKE WE STEPPED INTO THE NEGOTIATIONS AND WERE AT A SPOT THAT WE PROTECTED A GOOD BENEFITS PACKAGE THAT PROTECTED THE MEMBERS AND KEPT HEALTH INSURANCE AFFORDABLE AND PROTECTED THOSE WITH COUNTER HEALTH CONDITIONS. ONE AREA THAT IS AN IMPORTANT

STEP FORWARD IS IN HOW WE APPROACH THE COST ADJUSTMENT, BY INCLUDING THE 60 AN HOUR FLOOR OUR MEMBERS WHO ARE ACUTELY IMPACTED BY HIGH RENT INCREASES WILL BE ABLE TO PAY FOR THOSE AND CONTINUE TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR FAMILIES WITHOUT HAVING TO GO INTO MORE DEBT, WHILE SOME KNOW THAT THESE ARE APPROACHING DOUBLE DIGITS OR HAVE PASSED IT, SO OUR HOPE AND DESIRE IS THAT WE ARE ABLE TO STAY ON TOP OF THIS, SO THAT THE COUNTY CAN RETAIN A QUALITY WORKFORCE AND THAT CAN LIVE IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY. SO I WOULD LIKE TO CONCLUDE BY ACKNOWLEDGING THE WORK OF THE MANAGEMENT TEAM, STEVE HERRON AND THE H.R. REPRESENTATIVES ON THE TEAM, AND ALL THE HARD WORK THAT THEY PUT INTO IT, AND THERE IS FREQUENTLY VERY DEEP AND IMPACTFUL DISCUSSIONS, AND THAT'S GOOD BARGAINING IN MY OPINION, WHEN WE ARE MOVING PAST THE ISSUES AND GOING TO THE HEART OF THE PROBLEM. AND JUST TO SAY THAT THIS IS A HISTORIC AGREEMENT AND I WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE OUR UNION BARGAINING TEAM AND LOCAL 8 MEMBERS AND WOULD LIKE TO TURN IT OVER TO PERCY.

PERCY WINTERS JR.: COMMISSIONER MEIERAN, SMITH, VEGA PEDERSON, AND VICE CHAIR STEGMANN, I AM PERCY WINTERS JR., THE CHAIRMAN OF LOCAL 88, AND I WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND THANK STEVE FOR COMING TO THE TABLE AND TALKING ABOUT THIS CONTRACT. IT WAS A LONG PROCESS, AND

IN THE END LOCAL 88 MEMBERS FELT THAT WE GOT A VERY FAIR AND EQUITABLE CONTRACT. THEY SHOWED THAT BY COMING OUT AND VOTING 98% YES TO RATIFY THE CONTRACT. THERE ARE A COUPLE OF AREAS ON THE CONTRACT THAT I WON'T HIGHLIGHT, THAT WE NEGOTIATED INTO THE CONTRACT, AND THE FIRST ONE IS INCLEMENT WEATHER. WE KNOW -- WELL, WHEN IT STARTS SNOWING OUTSIDE AND ICING UP OUTSIDE I WILL PUT MY WINDOWS UP AND GO SNOW, SNOW, SNOW, SNOW. BUT I KNOW THAT MY EMPLOYEES ARE PROBABLY LOOKING OUT THERE SAYING WHEN THEY ARE GOING, DON'T SNOW, PLEASE DON'T SNOW. BECAUSE THEY ARE THE ONES THAT WILL GET UP IN THE MORNING AND GO OUT IN THOSE HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS. THEY ARE THE ONES PAVING THE ROAD AND GET IT GO CLEAR, SO GROCERY STORES CAN OPEN UP, SO HOSPITALS CAN OPEN UP.

PERCY WINTERS JR.: SO WE CAN OPEN UP AND GIVE MEDICATION TO OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS THAT NEEDS THAT SO FOR THEM TO GET TWO DAYS THAT THEY CAN USE JUST TO SIT BACK AND RELAX WITHOUT ANY HAZARDOUS CONDITION THAT IS THEY HAVE TO GO OUT INTO, THAT'S HUGE FOR THEM. AND IN YEARS PAST WE JUST SAID THROUGH A CENTRAL EMPLOYEE, THAT'S YOUR JOB, NOW MOVING FORWARD WITH THIS CONTRACT YES, YOU ARE AN ESSENTIAL EMPLOYEE BUT WE ARE ALSO SAYING THANK YOU. THE SECOND HIGHLIGHT OF THIS CONTRACT THAT I WANT TO TALK ABOUT IS MICRO-AGGRESSION. THE LANGUAGE IN THERE ABOUT MICRO-AGGRESSION. MULTNOMAH COUNTY HAS ALWAYS BEEN A LEADER WHETHER IT CAME TO THE DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION. NOW WE CAN PUT MICRO-AGGRESSION ON THERE. I WANT YOU TO THINK ABOUT THAT. NOW WE HAVE LANGUAGE IN THE CONTRACT SURROUNDING MICRO-AGGRESSION WHERE WE CAN HOLD EVERYONE ACCOUNTABLE. THEY ARE GOING TO BE OTHER MUNICIPALITIES, THERE IS GOING TO BE OTHER UNIONS THAT ARE GOING TO BE LOOKING AT US AND GOING, HOW DID MULTNOMAH COUNTY DO IT? ONCE AGAIN WE ARE THE LEADERS. WE DID A LITTLE RESEARCH, AND AT THIS POINT IN TIME THIS WILL BE THE ONLY CONTRACT THAT WE HAVE FOUND THAT WILL HAVE LANGUAGE ABOUT MICRO-AGGRESSION, SO I AM HERE BEFORE YOU TODAY ON BEHALF OF ALL OF THE LOCAL 88 MEMBERSHIP TO ASK YOU TO VOTE YES ON THIS CONTRACT, AND I AM ALSO GOING TO SAY PRETTY PLEASE. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

VICE-CHAIR STEGMANN: THANK YOU. QUESTIONS, COMMENTS? COMMISSIONER MEIERAN?

COMMISSIONER MEIERAN: JUST A COUPLE OF COMMENTS. SO THIS HAS BEEN THE FIRST TIME THAT I HAVE BEEN A COMMISSIONER DURING THESE TYPES OF -- THIS TYPE OF BARGAINING, AND I HAVE TO SAY THAT I HAVE BEEN VITALLY IMPRESSED, ALTHOUGH OF COURSE IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO REACH AN AGREEMENT WHERE EVERYONE GETS ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING THAT THEY WANT. THIS PARTICULAR AGREEMENT HAS BEEN PRETTY AMAZING. I'VE BEEN PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED BY THE EFFORTS OF STEVE HERRON, THANK YOU,

AND ALSO THE MEMBERS, SO MANY OF WHOM WERE INCLUDED IN THIS OF AFSCME LOCAL 88 AND PARTICULARLY PERCY WELCOME TO THE JOB, AND EBON AND ALSO RAYMOND. I DON'T KNOW IF HE'S STILL HERE IN THE AUDIENCE -- OH, THERE HE IS. YOU HAVE -- THIS HAS BEEN A REALLY PHENOMENAL EFFORT, AND YOU HAVE TAKEN ON NOT JUST SORT OF THE USUAL SUSPECTS, WHICH ARE HUGE IMPORTANT, FOR EXAMPLE, HEALTH CARE AND THINGS LIKE THAT BUT THE EQUITY CONSIDERATION THAT UNDERPIN THIS CONTRACT HAVE BEEN POWERFUL, INCLUDING FAMILY STRUCTURE, IMMIGRATION, AND PREMIUM FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE THAT CULTURAL EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS THAT THEY CAN USE IN THEIR WORK AND THE PROHIBITION ON PROHIBITION ACTS PARTICULARLY AS PERCY JUST MENTIONED, THE MICRO-AGGRESSIONS THIS IS ONE OF THE ACTION THAT IS DOROTHY MENTIONED DURING OUR PAST PRESENTATION. THANK YOU. I WILL BE VERY EXCITED TO VOTE YES ON THIS.

COMMISSIONER SMITH: THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR VICE CHAIR, YOU DON'T HAVE TO ASK PRETTY PLEASE. THIS IS GREAT AND THIS IS MY LAST CONTRACT AND I THINK THE ITEMS YOU NOTED, AND STEVE THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR REALLY EDUCATING AND ENGAGING THE COMMISSIONERS ON A LEVEL THAT WE CAN UNDERSTAND A LOT OF THIS STUFF IS REAL SERIOUS AND TECHNICAL. AND WHAT YOU DID WAS YOU WERE ABLE TO BRING IT TO US AT A LEVEL AND UNDERSTANDING THAT WE COULD REALLY UNDERSTAND, AND I FEEL, I APPRECIATE BEING ABLE TO HAVE RAYMOND, PERCY, HAVING YOUR FOLKS COME IN AND GIVE ME AN EXTRA UNDERSTANDING AS WELL SO THIS IS GREAT. THIS IS WONDERFUL. NOW 75, THEY ARE GOING TO HAVE TO STEP THEIR GAME UP, RIGHT?

PERCY WINTERS JR.: ABSOLUTELY.

COMMISSIONER SMITH: SO THIS IS HUGE, AND I WANT TO THANK THE EMPLOYEES WHO WORK HERE BECAUSE WE WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT PEOPLE -- YOU COME TO WORK -- YOU SPEND MORE TIME HERE WITH US THAN, THAN MANY OF YOUR FAMILIES IN MANY CASES SO WE WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT WE ARE GETTING THE WORK DONE FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE AND PEOPLE ARE TREATED WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT, AND I THINK WITH THIS PIECE ON MICRO-AGGRESSION THAT WILL HELP, SO THANK YOU.

VICE-CHAIR STEGMANN: THANK YOU VICE CHAIR. I TO ADD MY APPRECIATION FOR ALL THE HARD WORK.

COMMISSIONER VEGA PEDERSON: THIS IS COMMISSIONER SMITH'S AFSCME LAST CONTRACT BUT THIS IS OUR FIRST, AND WE HAVE HAD SOME OF THE OTHER UNION CONTRACTS THAT WE RATIFIED, BUT THIS IS THE BIG ONE, RIGHT, THIS IS THE ONE THAT TOOK -- TAKES SO, SO MUCH WORK JUST BECAUSE OF THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES SO I APPRECIATE THE HOURS THAT HAVE GONE INTO THIS. AND I JUST APPRECIATE -- I WORKED AND

PARTNERED WITH AFSCME ON A LOT OF POLICY ISSUES AT THE STATE LEVEL, AND HAVE LOVED THE, YOU KNOW, HOW THE ADVOCACY FOR EQUALITY AND MAKING A FAIR OR STATE BUT THIS IS REALLY YOU KNOW, WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD IN TERMS OF THE AFSCME MEMBERS AND MAKING SURE THAT THE WORK THAT THEY ARE DOING WAS REFLECTED IN THE CONTRACT IS BRINGING THAT SAME EQUITY AND THE FAIRNESS INTO THE CONTRACT AND THE WORKING CONDITIONS FOR EMPLOYEES, WHICH IS SO, SO IMPORTANT, I APPRECIATE THAT, WHERE THE PRIORITIES ARE AND WHERE YOUR VALUES ARE AND HOW THEY PLAY OUT IN THIS CONTRACT, AND I AM VERY, VERY HAPPY TO BE ABLE TO VOTE YES ON THIS TODAY. SO THANK YOU GUYS.

VICE-CHAIR STEGMANN: THANK YOU VERY MUCH STEVE AND EBON AND PERCY. CLEARING A 98% RATIFICATION, THAT IS, I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT NORMALLY IS, BUT IT SEEMS LIKE 98 IS A GREAT NUMBER SO I THINK THAT SPEAKS TO THE GOOD FAITH THAT BOTH PARTIES BROUGHT FORTH AND I KNOW THAT STEVE DID AN AMAZING JOB OF MAKING VERY COMPLEX ISSUES CLEARER TO ME SO I REALLY APPRECIATE THAT, AND I KNOW THAT THE ESSENTIAL EMPLOYEES THAT THAT WAS SOMETHING THAT EVERYONE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT.

R.3 Board Briefing from the Native American Rehabilitation Assn. of the Northwest (NARA). Presenters: Jackie Mercer, NARA Executive Director; and, Invited Guests (25 min)

VICE-CHAIR STEGMANN: WELCOME. WE'RE SO EXCITED TO HAVE YOU HERE.

JACKIE MERCER: THANK YOU VERY MUCH. WE'RE REALLY HONORED TO BE HERE AND TO FOLLOW TWO AWESOME THINGS THAT HAPPENED TODAY. IT'S REALLY HUMBLING AND AN HONOR TO BE HERE DURING THIS MONTH AND THIS CELEBRATION THAT YOU HAD FOR BLACK HISTORY. IT'S AMAZING AND WE REALLY CAN'T FORGET. IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT TO NOT FORGET WHERE WE CAME FROM FOR ANY OF US. SO THE FIRST THING WE WANTED TO DO IS WE HAVE SAM GRAY WOLF, WHO'S GOING TO OPEN WITH A FLUTE SONG TO KIND OF GET US STARTED HERE. IF THAT'S ALL RIGHT. [INAUDIBLE]

I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE OUR ELDER PHILLIP WHO ARE HERE. TO GIVE OUR HONORED PRAYER.

PHILLIP: THANK YOU FOR THIS BEAUTIFUL DAY. WE ASK YOU TO BLESS EVERYBODY IN THIS ROOM. BLESS THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR LOVED ONES. [INAUDIBLE] WATCH OVER THE PEOPLE ON THE STREETS. KEEP THEIR SPIRITS STRONG. ARMED FORCES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. HELP THEM AND THEIR FAMILIES TO BE SAFE. WE ASK YOU TO KEEP OUR HEARTS AND MINDS

STRONTIAN AND CONTINUE TO HELP THE CITIZENS AND THE PEOPLE WHOM WE ARE DEDICATED TO SERVE.

JACKIE MERCER: SO MADAM CHAIR, IF I CAN SAY, MY NAME IS JACKIE MERCER AND I WANTED TO DO SAY TWO THINGS ABOUT THAT. I GET EMOTIONAL BRINGING THE FAMILY HEAR TO MEET YOU ALL. YOU MAY LOOK AROUND AND SEE FUTURE ELECTED OFFICIALS IN THE ROOM. A LOT OF YOUNG PEOPLE HERE THAT MAY WANT TO BE HERE SOMEDAY, BUT I BRING LEGISLATORS OR ANY ELECTED OFFICIALS, COMMISSIONERS TO MEET OUR COMMUNITY, YOU KNOW. IT HELPS PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR VOICE CAN BE HEARD. AND THAT THEY HAVE POWER AND THEY HAVE ABILITY TO INFLUENCE THINGS. SO IT KIND OF CHANGES LIVES SO I REALLY WANT TO THANK YOU ALL FOR THAT OPPORTUNITY. YOU KNOW, MY NAME IS JACKIE MERCER, AS I SAID. I'M AN ALCOHOLIC, 23 YEARS SOBER, NARA RUNS ME, YOU MIGHT THINK IT'S THE OTHER WAY. NOT SO MUCH. BUT I WANTED TO THANK YOU ALL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY BECAUSE WE WANTED TO REALLY, THANK YOU.

SO THE ORIGINAL PLAN WAS TO COME IN NOVEMBER SO WE'RE ON INDIAN TIME, JUST SAYING, AND WE WANTED TO THANK YOU IN A MONTH OF GRATITUDE FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND YOUR INVESTMENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY BECAUSE REALLY WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT AND, YOU KNOW, I HAVE TO KIND OF TALK ABOUT THESE THINGS SOMETIMES, IT'S REALLY HARD WHEN I HAVE TO TALK ABOUT THE ENORMOUS DISPARITIES, IT'S REALLY HEAVY. IT'S A VERY HEAVY BURDEN. IT'S HEAVY TO HEAR. IT'S HEAVIER TO KIND OF WEAR FOR OUR COMMUNITY. AND THEY'RE STAGGERING STATISTICS. AND, YOU KNOW, FOR YOUR READING WE INCLUDED THEM IN YOUR PACKET. THERE'S A LOT OF INFORMATION IN THERE ABOUT THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE. WE'RE A CONTRACTOR OF THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE. WE'RE PART OF THE INDIAN HEALTH SYSTEM IN OREGON BETWEEN THE TRIBES, IHS, AND NARA. WE'RE THE URBAN INDIAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION THAT'S PART OF THAT HEALTHCARE SYSTEM. AND, YOU KNOW, THERE ARE -- DIABETES IS REALLY RAMPANT IN INDIAN COUNTRY. AT THE SAME TIME, I WANT TO SAY THAT WE HAVE A MODEL PROGRAM THAT'S WON AWARDS NATIONALLY, REGIONALLY AND LOCALLY.

AND GREAT SUCCESS FOR PREVENTING AND TREATING DIABETES. I THOUGHT THE DOCTOR MIGHT LIKE THAT, JUST SAYING. AND ALSO WHEN IT COMES TO MENTAL HEALTH, IT KIND OF TAKES ME DOWN THE PATH OF HAVING TO TALK ABOUT TRAUMA AND, YOU KNOW, TRAUMA -- WE WISH TRAUMA WERE REALLY HISTORICAL, BUT WHAT WE'VE LEARNED IS THAT IT'S A COUPLE OF MINUTES BEFORE YOU JUST TALKED. THAT'S REALLY THE HISTORICAL PART OF TRAUMA BECAUSE IT JUST KIND OF KEEPS HAPPENING AND YOU ALL TALKED ABOUT MICROAGGRESSIONS AND REALLY BIGGER ONES THAT STILL OCCUR TODAY AND WE COULD TALK ABOUT THEM A LOT, BUT THE ONE THING WE WANT TO SAY IS THAT WE'RE NOT THOSE DISPARITIES. YOU KNOW, WE'RE -- WE ARE -- THAT DOES NOT DEFINE WHO

WE ARE AS PEOPLE. THAT'S NOT WHAT -- THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED TO US, BUT THAT'S NOT KIND OF WHO WE ARE. SO WE WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU ALL HAD SOME INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT THE DISPARITIES ARE AND THE NUMBERS.

JACKIE MERCER: THERE'S A COUPLE OF NUMBERS, I'M FEELING A LITTLE BIT LIKE I NEED TO TALK QUICKER, PEOPLE SAY I CAN TALK UNTIL THE COWS COME HOME AND IF YOU HEAR THEM MOOING, IF YOU COULD LET ME KNOW, THAT WOULD BE GREAT. SO ANYWAY, A COUPLE OF THE NUMBERS THAT I WANTED TO KIND OF TALK ABOUT WERE THE NUMBERS ABOUT OPIATE DEATHS IN OREGON. AND THEY'RE REALLY SIGNIFICANT AND KIND OF STAGGERING. AND WHEN YOU LOOK AT THAT, PER 100,000 THERE'S LIKE 8 ON AN AVERAGE, BUT WHEN YOU LOOK AT NATIVES IT BUMPS UP TO 18. AND THAT REALLY KIND OF SOUNDS HORRIBLE UNTIL YOU LOOK AT THE ALCOHOL NUMBERS. AND THE ALCOHOL NUMBERS FOR DEATHS IN OREGON ARE 40 PER 100,000. AND FOR NATIVES, 84. SO YOU KNOW, WE DON'T WANT PEOPLE TO DIE FROM ANYTHING. I MEAN, REALLY AND TO HAVE HAPPY AND LONG LIVES AND, YOU KNOW, THE ISSUES ABOUT OPIATES IS REAL AND I UNDERSTAND THAT. WE NEED TO ADDRESS IT.

WE NEED TO ADDRESS IT IN OUR COMMUNITY, BUT THERE'S A PATHWAY TO DO THAT. WE'RE GOING TO TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THAT BECAUSE WE'RE GOING TO TALK ABOUT WHO WE ARE AND KIND OF WHERE WE CAME FROM. SO THE BEST WAY I FOUND TO KIND OF TALK ABOUT NARA IS TO TALK ABOUT US IN DECADES BECAUSE WE KIND OF GROW THAT WAY. SO IN THE '60S, A LOT OF PEOPLE WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE NUMBER OF NATIVE PEOPLE THAT WERE KIND OF DYING ON THE STREETS SO THEY GOT TOGETHER, THERE WAS A COUPLE OF CHURCHES THAT HELPED OUT, THERE WERE PEOPLE THAT GOT A COUPLE OF HOUSES AND THEY STARTED OUT JUST TRYING TO DO WHAT THEY COULD TO GET PEOPLE TO A.A. MEETINGS, TO GET THEM INTO A CLEAN PLACE TO LIVE, AND HELP THEM FIND JOBS AND THAT WAS KIND OF WHAT IT WAS LIKE IN THE EARLY YEARS. IN THE 1970S, NARA WAS BORN. IN 1970, THEY DIDN'T GET THEIR FIRST MONEY UNTIL TWO TO FOUR YEARS LATER. BUT THEY WERE STILL OPERATIONAL BECAUSE THAT WAS THE COMMITMENT AND THE DRIVE AND THE GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT OF WHAT NARA IS ABOUT. FOUNDATION OF WHO WE ARE IS REALLY ABOUT RECOVERY.

AND SO REALLY IN THE '70S WAS KIND OF THE BEGINNING AND THEY ENDED UP WITH TWO OR THREE HOUSES AND THINGS PROGRESSED FROM THERE. I DID WANT TO SAY THAT IN THE '80S, ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT THINGS THAT HAPPENED WAS PHILIP CAME TO NARA. HE'S LISTENING TO ME, BUT HE CAME TO ME, PHILIP, THAT'S ONE OF THE BEST THINGS THAT HAPPENED IN 1980. AND, YOU KNOW, BROUGHT WITH HIM THE CULTURE AND THE COMMITMENT TO SOBRIETY AND HAS BEEN OUR LEADER IN MANY YEARS SINCE THEN. PHILIP IS OUR CULTURE DIRECTOR. LEROY BIG BOY WHO IS SITTING SECOND THERE IS ALSO ONE OF OUR CULTURE KEEPERS, AS IS ROSE

HILL WHO'S RIGHT THERE AND KELLY CUNNINGHAM WHO'S HERE SOMEWHERE. AND SO THOSE ARE THE PEOPLE THAT REALLY PROVIDE THE GUIDANCE AND THE HELP FOR US AS WE KIND OF MOVE FORWARD. AS I SAID, NARA GREW IN DECADES. THE FIRST ONE WAS THE '70S, KIND OF THE BEGINNING. IN 1980, IN THE '80S, NARA OPENED THE FIRST WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S TREATMENT PROGRAM IN OREGON AND THAT BEGAN A PROCESS OF CHANGE BECAUSE THEN YOU WERE TREATING THE FAMILY, AND THEN YOU HAD CHILDREN AND THAT BEGINS TO CREATE A COMMUNITY, AND THEN THERE'S BIGGER MOVEMENT THAT HAPPENS OUT OF THAT.

JACKIE MERCER: SO ONE OF THE THINGS THAT KIND OF HAPPENED IN THE '80S ALSO WAS WE HAD -- WAS THE FIRST SOBRIETY POWWOW. AGAIN THAT WAS SOMETHING THAT PHILIP CREATED. IT'S BEEN GOING ON SINCE THEN. NEW YEAR'S EVE, IF YOU ALL HAVEN'T BEEN THERE, IT'S AN AWESOME PLACE. YOU ALL ARE WELCOME. WE STARTED OUT, PHILIP HAD MAYBE 50 PEOPLE THE FIRST YEAR. THERE WERE ABOUT 5,000 PEOPLE THIS PAST NEW YEAR'S EVE THAT CAME TO BE IN A CLEAN AND SOBER PLACE ON NEW YEAR'S EVE. SO PLEASE COME. THAT'S WHEN OUR RESIDENTIAL CONSOLIDATED IN THE '80S AND MOVED TO GRESHAM AND IT WAS IN AN OLD FACILITY THERE FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS, AND THEN IN THE '90S, NARA WAS ABLE TO MOVE THAT FACILITY TO WHERE WE ARE NOW ON ST. HELENS HIGHWAY. IT BECAME COOED COED AND WE CAN TAKE MEN AND CHILDREN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN AND COUPLES AND CHILDREN INTO THAT TREATMENT PROGRAM. SO IT'S REALLY AWESOME. AND HOPEFULLY SOON YOU CAN COME AND SEE ALL OF NARA. WE ONLY HAVE 10 SITES.

IT WILL TAKE A DAY AND A HALF. AND WE'LL JUST PACK SOME LUNCHES FOR YOU. AND ALSO IN THE '90S, NARA OPENED THE INDIAN HEALTH CLINIC. IT WAS OPERATED BY ANOTHER ORGANIZATION UP UNTIL THAT TIME AND THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE APPROACHED NARA AND SAID WOULD YOU OPEN THE CLINIC? SO THAT CHANGED NARA AGAIN BECAUSE ALL OF A SUDDEN THERE WAS PRIMARY CARE, THERE WAS SOME MORE MENTAL HEALTH, THERE WAS SOME PSYCHIATRY. WE ALSO GOT THE FIRST GRANT FOR BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER SCREEN FROM THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND WE ALSO WERE ABLE TO GET A LITTLE MORE PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES AND HAVE OUR ALUMNI PICNIC WHICH HAS BEEN GOING ON SINCE TOO, WHICH IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT. IN THE 2000S, LIKE 2001, AUGUST 9TH, YOU ALL REMEMBER PROBABLY WHERE YOU WERE. I DO BECAUSE I WAS RIGHT HERE. AND THIS WAS -- NOT THIS SEAT HERE, BUT I WAS IN THE ROOM BECAUSE THAT WAS THE DAY THAT THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS VOTED ON A RESOLUTION FOR MENTAL HEALTH REFORM AND IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT RESOLUTION. THERE WERE WAY MORE PEOPLE HERE THAN EVEN NOW. WE HAD A GROUP OF -- A COALITION OF COMMUNITIES THAT CAME AND WE WERE ABLE TO GET THE PROCLAMATION AS IT WAS READ TO INCLUDE THAT THE COUNTY WOULD COMMIT TO HELPING COMMUNITIES OF COLOR WITH MENTAL HEALTH. AND IT WAS THE BEGINNING AND IT'S ONE OF THE THINGS THAT

REALLY DROVE ME TO WANT TO BE HERE IS BECAUSE THAT INVESTMENT MADE -- IT WAS LIKE -- IT WAS LIKE THE FIRE STARTER FOR US TO REALLY BEGIN TO GROW AND DEVELOP. IT WAS \$100,000, WE'RE NOT MUCH DIFFERENT THAN THAT RIGHT NOW IN TERMS OF THAT MONEY, BUT IT FUNDED OUR OUTREACH TEAM AND SO WE BEGAN OUR EFFORTS THEN ON THE STREETS AND THE SHELTERS, IN THE HOSPITALS, FINDING PEOPLE AND GETTING THEM CARE. BILL JENSEN IS ONE OF THE ORIGINALS AND ALSO, HE'S AN ORIGINAL OUTREACH MEMBER AND MIKE IS AN OUTREACH MEMBER AND SHIRA IS HERE SOMEWHERE. THERE SHE IS. SO ANYWAY THAT WAS VERY IMPORTANT FOR US BECAUSE IT REALLY GAVE US A LITTLE CONFIDENCE ABOUT GETTING SOME OTHER RESOURCES.

JACKIE MERCER: SO THEN WE APPLIED FOR YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION, METH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION GRANT. WE APPLIED FOR FUNDS FOR CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES. WE GOT THE CIRCLES OF CARE, THE SYSTEMS OF CARE GRANT. WE WERE ASKED TO OPERATE THE WOMEN'S TRANSITIONAL HOUSE IN NORTH PORTLAND. WE BEGAN A GAMBLING PREVENTION AND COUNSELING PROGRAM AND BEGAN OUR ELDERS PROGRAM, WHICH IS REALLY LARGELY AN ELDER SUPPORT GROUP THAT MEETS IN ONE OF OUR FACILITIES. SO WE WERE A LITTLE BUSY IN THE 2000S. JUST SAYING. WE ALSO OPENED UP TOTEM LODGE, WHICH IS A PROGRAM ON DIVISION, NOT THE VERY ORIGINAL BUILDING, BUT SOMEWHERE IN THE '80S AND TOTEM IS A PROGRAM FOR ADULTS WITH SEVERE AND PERSISTENT MENTAL ILLNESS AND WE ALSO HAVE ACT TEAM THAT IS THE COMMUNITY TREATMENT TEAM THAT OPERATES OUT OF THERE. WE ALSO OPENED OUR PHARMACY AND WE STARTED IN THAT DECADE, OUR SPIRIT OF GIVING CONFERENCE AND AS I SAY, SPIRIT OF GIVING IS NOT JUST A CONFERENCE.

IT'S A WAY OF LIFE FOR US AND ALSO THE BOO BASH, WHICH IS PHILIP'S FAVORITE HOLIDAY. HALLOWEEN. SO WE ALSO STARTED HONORING CHILDREN ON OUR MENTAL HEALTH DAY. AND THEN IN THE 20 2010S, WE BEGAN DEVELOPING OUR SYSTEM OF CARE. SO WE HAVE MENTAL, HEALTH, AND DENTAL NOW. AND OUR DENTAL DIRECTOR IS HERE, AND WE HAVE -- WHERE ARE YOU? THERE SHE IS. AND IT WAS NEW AND ONE OF THE THINGS ABOUT THAT PROGRAM IS THAT WE'RE REALLY WORKING TO HAVE THAT MOBILE AND SO WE'RE BRINGING THOSE SERVICES TO THE CHILDREN, TO THE YOUTH, TO THE ADULTS IN OUR RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS AND AT OTHER SITES. AND THERE'S A PROGRAM, THE DENTAL HEALTH THERAPY ASSISTANCE AND THAT IS KIND OF A NEW THING IN OREGON, BUT IT'S REALLY TO EXPAND ACCESS AND CULTURALLY SPECIFIC ACCESS SO WE'RE VERY EXCITED ABOUT THAT AND WE'LL PUT THAT ON YOUR TOUR. AND THEN ONE OF THE OTHER MAIN THINGS THAT HAPPENED IN THIS DECADE SO FAR IS THAT WE OPENED A PROGRAM IN GRESHAM AND IN THAT PROGRAM WE HAVE A YOUTH RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT FACILITY. WE'RE SO HONORED TO HAVE THE KIDS. IT'S SOMETHING THAT WE'VE DREAMED ABOUT FOR A LONG TIME TO REALLY BE ABLE TO HELP PEOPLE BEFORE THEY GET TO THE POINT OF NEEDING OUR

ADULT PROGRAM TO DO THOSE INTERVENTIONS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE SO IT'S KIND OF ONE OF THE THINGS THAT MAKES MY HEART SING TO REALIZE THAT WE'RE DOING THAT SO WE INTEGRATED THAT WITH ALL OF OUR CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES. SO WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY THERE FOR IN-HOME SERVICES, OUTREACH, AND MENTAL HEALTH. WE HAVE AN OUTPATIENT ADDICTION PROGRAM FOR YOUTH.

JACKIE MERCER: WE HAVE A NEW PEDIATRICIAN ON STAFF AND WE'RE WORKING ON EXPANDING OUR PROGRAM FOR PREGNANT WOMEN, PREGNANT FAMILIES. AND SOME OF THE OTHER FOLKS HERE ARE VERY INVOLVED ALSO. IN THIS DECADE WE WERE ABLE TO EXPAND OUR RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICES WITH RECOVERY MENTORS, PEERS AND ALSO TRIBAL OUTREACH. WE ALSO ADDED EMERGENCY ROOM OUTREACH IN A FEW OF THE HOSPITALS AS WELL AS A VETERANS PROGRAM. WE HAVE LOTS OF HOUSING SUPPORTS THANKS TO YOU ALL. AND WE'RE ALSO IN THE PROCESS OF JUST OPENING UP A VOCATIONAL PROGRAM, A NEW FOLK SONG PROGRAM. SO YOU KNOW, A BIG PART OF THIS REALLY IS A THANK YOU TO YOU BECAUSE IF WE HADN'T HAD THAT ORIGINAL MONEY AND THE SUPPORT WE'VE HAD SINCE THEN, WE REALLY WOULDN'T BE WHERE WE ARE AND I THINK WE ALL KNOW THAT AND WE'RE REALLY GRATEFUL AND IT'S WHY I BROUGHT THE FAMILY HERE, JUST A COUPLE OF THEM. WE HAVE MORE.

SO WHEN YOU LOOK AT THESE TWO DESIGNS IN YOUR PACKETS, WERE DRAWN BY ONE OF OUR EXTREMELY TALENTED STAFF WHO DID THEM AND YOU CAN SEE THAT THE ONE THAT'S LIKE THIS REALLY TALKS ABOUT OUR MODEL SO WE HAVE AN INTEGRATED CARE MODEL. WE HAVE IT ACROSS THE AGES FOR CHILDREN THROUGHOUT ELDERS FOR HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH, RECOVERY AND SOCIAL SUPPORTS ALL DONE IN A CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL WAY, AND IT'S ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PARTS ABOUT KIND OF WHO WE ARE IS THAT ASPECT AND THIS DIAGRAM IS REALLY ABOUT WHAT KIND OF GOES LIKE THIS, CULTURE IS PREVENTION IS TREATMENT IS WELLNESS IS LIFE IS CULTURE. SO JUST TO KIND OF KEEP IT IN THE KIND OF PERSPECTIVE OF WHO WE ARE. AND WE HAVE IN YOUR PACKET YOU'LL SEE LOTS OF THE CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES THAT WE DO. WE'RE LOOKING FOR A SUPPORT FROM YOU ALL. WE WENT FROM ABOUT 20 CLIENTS BACK IN THE DAY BACK IN 1970 TO OVER 5,000 PEOPLE THAT WE SERVE TODAY. AND WE'RE JUST REALLY GRATEFUL FOR THAT OPPORTUNITY. I WAS GOING TO ASK THAT WE HAVE A COUPLE OF PEOPLE HERE WHO ARE GOING TO TELL THEIR STORY AND THEN WE'LL -- IF YOU'LL LET US WE'RE GOING TO HONOR YOU GUYS SO THANK YOU.

VICE-CHAIR STEGMANN: ABSOLUTELY.

MICHAEL TEEPLE: THANK YOU, JACKIE. I WORK OUTREACH FOR NARA. YOU KNOW, MY STORY IS A LOT LONGER THAN THE TIME I HAVE, BUT I'M GOING TO DO THE BEST I CAN. WHEN I CAME BACK TO NARA I HAD BEEN THROUGH NARA

A COUPLE OF TIMES, BUT THE LAST TIME I HAD BEEN HOMELESS FOR 10 YEARS. AND I KNOW AFTER FIVE THEY SAY YOU'RE GONE PERMANENTLY SO I WAS BEYOND RECALL. THE FACT THAT I'M SITTING HERE IS AN AWESOME BLESSING AND I OWE IT TO NARA. I WANT TO EMPHASIZE NARA WORKS. I'M ALUMNI AND I EXPERIENCED THIS IN MY LIFE AND I WORK TO SHARE THIS WITH OTHER PEOPLE, OF COURSE, AND YOU KNOW, THOSE TIMES WHEN I WAS HOMELESS, I DIDN'T CARE ABOUT YOU, I DIDN'T CARE ABOUT MYSELF, I DIDN'T CARE ABOUT ANYTHING. I ENGAGED WITH NARA BACK IN 2005.

MICHAEL TEEPLE: I GUESS I WAS READY. I'M AN ALCOHOLIC, I DIDN'T KNOW I WAS READY. BUT I WAS. AND THEY SAY YOU'VE GOT TO SURRENDER AND I DIDN'T KNOW THAT, I NEEDED HELP FROM MY HIGHER POWER, FROM THE GREAT SPIRIT TO SURRENDER AND THAT HAPPENED. AND AS BRIEF AS THIS IS, THIS DIDN'T HAPPEN OVERNIGHT. IT TAKES TIME. IT TAKES TIME TO GET INTO RECOVERY, TO KEEP THE STUFF THAT I LEARNED AT NARA AND TREATMENT AND I ALSO WENT TO THE 12 STEP MEETINGS. IT TAKES TIME TO LEARN THAT. RIGHT NOW, I DON'T LOOK ANYTHING LIKE THAT PERSON WHO FIRST CAME INTO NARA. I HAD A BIG BEARD. I'VE GOT TROUBLE WITH THE INDIAN PEOPLE OVER THAT ONE, BUT THAT'S HISTORY. AND I'VE GOT TO TELL YOU, THE TYPE OF LIFE I LIVED, I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M SITTING HERE SOBER OVER 12 AND A HALF YEARS. I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT CAME OUT OF MY MOUTH. I OWE THAT TO NARA. TODAY, I'M DRIVING A CAR, I PAY MY INSURANCE, I PAY ALL MY BILLS ON TIME. [LAUGHS] AND, YOU KNOW, I NEVER DREAMED I WOULD BE ACTUALLY WORKING FOR NARA. I TRIED A FEW TIMES.

IT JUST WASN'T THE RIGHT TIME I GUESS, AND THEN I WAS ASKED ONE DAY IF I WANTED TO WORK OUTREACH AND I SAID, OF COURSE, AND IT TOOK A LITTLE PROCESS AND, LIKE I SAID, I LOOK COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THE WAY I DID BACK THEN BECAUSE OF NARA. IT'S WAY BETTER THAN THE TYPE OF LIFE I HAD MY WHOLE LIFE INCLUDING FROM THE TIME I WAS BORN UNTIL NINE YEARS OLD WHEN I HAD MY FIRST DRINK. IT'S WAY BETTER THAN THAT, TOO. BUT I FEEL REAL GRATEFUL FOR THE LIFE I LIVE TODAY AND IF IT WASN'T FOR YOU GUYS HELPING US EARLIER, THIS WOULD NEVER HAVE HAPPENED. I WOULD PROBABLY STILL BE IN THOSE BUSHES RIGHT NOW. I WOULD BE DRUNK BY NOW, PROBABLY SOBERING. SPENT COUNTLESS TIMES THERE. BUT I REALLY WANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT NARA WORKS AND I REALLY FEEL BLESSED TO BE WORKING IN OUTREACH TO SHARE THIS MESSAGE WITH OTHER PEOPLE AND IT'S NOT JUST NATIVE PEOPLE. OUR DOORS ARE OPEN TO EVERYBODY, WHETHER YOU'RE BLACK, WHITE, YELLOW, IT DOESN'T MATTER. YES, OUR EMPHASIS IS WITH NATIVE PEOPLE, BUT WE'RE OPEN TO EVERYBODY. AND I CAN'T -- I CAN'T TALK HIGH ENOUGH, GOOD ENOUGH ABOUT NARA. IT REALLY WORKS AND I HOPE YOU CONTINUE YOUR SUPPORT FOR US. THANK YOU.

VICE-CHAIR STEGMANN: THANK YOU.

MOLLY ANN JONES: MY NAME IS MOLLY ANNE JONES. I COME FROM THE UMATILLA AND WALLA WALLA RESERVATION. I'M 29 YEARS OLD AND FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS OF MY LIFE, I'VE BEEN DRINKING, USING METH AND BEEN A HUGE PART OF CRIMINALITY. I'VE BEEN IN AND OUT OF FOSTER CARES. I'VE BEEN IN AND OUT OF JUVIE. I'VE BEEN IN JAILS, ON MY WAY TO PRISON. I'VE BEEN THROUGH FOUR DIFFERENT TREATMENT CENTERS AND TO GIVE YOU A LITTLE PIECE OF THAT, SO YOU GUYS COULD UNDERSTAND LIKE HOW MUCH NARA HAS CHANGED MY LIFE. AND THEN ALSO MY DEPTHS OF DESPAIR, WHEN I WAS 17 YEARS OLD I WAS IN A NONNATIVE FOSTER HOME AND I HAD MY CHILD IN FOSTER CARE ALSO.

MY SON WAS ALMOST A YEAR OLD, AND HE DIED IN FOSTER CARE THE DAY I WAS GETTING HIM BACK WHILE I WAS AT WORK. A COUPLE OF YEARS LATER HIS FATHER DIED, GOT SHOT AND KILLED BY A POLICE OFFICER. SO IN MY ADDICTION, I WAS CONSTANTLY LIVING TO DIE. I KNEW MY OPTIONS WERE PRISON OR DEATH AND I WELCOMED THEM. SO THROUGH MANY DIFFERENT TREATMENT CENTERS, I TRIED TO GET THIS RECOVERY AND I WOULD FALL AND I WOULD FALL. AND FINALLY, YOU KNOW, LIKE I HAD MY OTHER SON AND I TRIED AGAIN AND I GOT ALMOST A YEAR AND A HALF AND I FELL AGAIN. I WAS IN SPOKANE. SO THEN MY DEPTHS OF DESPAIR KEPT GOING AND BY THE GRACE OF GOD I GOT INCARCERATED. THAT WAS A BLESSING. AND ANYHOW I ENDED UP TRYING TO GET CLEAN, GETTING SOBER AND I WENT TO A PROGRAM IN BAKER, I LEFT. I WAS PREGNANT, HAD MY OTHER SON AND I LEFT. I STAYED CLEAN AND SOBER. I WENT TO MY RESERVATION, I STAYED CLEAN AND SOBER. AND THEN I ASKED THEM FOR A FAMILY ROOM, CAN THEY GET ME A FAMILY ROOM AT NARA? I WAITED THREE MONTHS AND I KEPT MY CLEAN DATE AND I WAITED FOR THAT FAMILY ROOM. I GOT TO NARA WITH MY FAMILY, MY TWO KIDS AND MY OTHER HALF.

THE BEAUTIFULEST THING IS THAT THIS ADDICTION, THIS IS A FAMILY DISEASE. MY FATHER, HE'S A DRUG ADDICT. HE'S A METH ADDICT. MY MOTHER, MY AUNTIES, MY UNCLES FROM THE RESERVATION, IT'S DEEP. THE ALCOHOL, THE DRUGS. SO WHEN YOU GO TO NARA, YOU AUTOMATICALLY LIKE I FELT LIKE MAN, YOU KNOW, THE MOST BEAUTIFULEST THING IS I COULD GO HERE AND GET HELP, NOT JUST ME, MY ENTIRE FAMILY BECAUSE THIS ALSO GOES TO THE GENERATIONAL TRAUMA THROUGH THE SEVEN GENERATIONS TO MY KIDS' KIDS. AND SO WHEN I WENT TO NARA, MY SISTER WAS ACTUALLY THERE ALSO BECAUSE MY SIBLINGS ALSO ARE IN DRUG ADDICTION. SO NARA ACCEPTS THAT AND I GOT TO GET THE HUGE PIECE OF ME THAT WAS MISSING OF MY IDENTITY THAT MY DRUG ADDICTION STOLE FROM ME WAS MY SPIRITUALITY. MY CULTURE, MY HERITAGE. I WAS RAISED VERY TRADITIONAL GROWING UP AS A CHILD WITH MY GREAT-GRANDMA, MY GRANDMA WHO SPOKE FLUENT NATIVE, THROUGH MY ADDICTION THAT GOT TAKEN FROM ME AND THAT'S ALL THAT I CARED ABOUT SO WHEN I WENT TO NARA THAT HUGE PIECE BEING A PART OF IT AND THEY TREAT YOU SO GOOD, YOU KNOW. THEY WELCOME YOU. ALL RACES, NO MATTER WHAT. AND IT WAS

JUST THE BEAUTIFULEST THING, AND THEN FROM THERE, GRADUATING INPATIENT, I WENT IN THERE WITH NINE MONTHS CLEAN AND I CAME OUT AND I WENT TO OUTPATIENT. THEY ALSO HELP YOU WITH MENTAL HEALTH. LIKE I HAVE VERY TRAUMATIC EVENTS IN MY LIFE WHERE I NEED THAT MENTAL HEALTH AND THEY ALSO HELP YOU WITH THE PEER MENTORSHIP.

MOLLY ANN JONES: I HAVEN'T HAD MY LICENSE IN YEARS AND I HAVE A HUGE CRIMINAL RECORD AND I FEEL LIKE THAT'S A HUGE BARRIER, BUT THEY HELP PUSH YOU AND MAKE YOU BELIEVE IN YOURSELF AND LET YOU KNOW YOU'RE WORTH IT AND YOU CAN'T DO IT AND DON'T LET THAT BE A LABEL. I HAVE NINE FELONIES. DON'T LET THAT STOP YOU. YOU CAN OVERCOME IT, YOU CAN PUSH FORWARD. AND SO I'VE DONE THAT. AND I THANK NARA FOR THAT. ALSO FOR ALL THE HEALTH CENTERS AND ALL THE PEOPLE, EACH AND EVERY INDIVIDUAL THAT YOU SEE WORKING FOR NARA HAS EITHER BEEN ALUMNI OR THEY HAVE SUCH A HUGE PASSION TO HELP THIS HUGE COMMUNITY, AND IT'S ALL RACES AND SO LIKE THIS IS A FAMILY DISEASE. THIS IS WHAT IT TAKES TO CREATE THE HEALING, THE HEALING FORCE IS US AS A FAMILY. YOU KNOW, MY AUNTIES, MY UNCLES, I COME OVER HERE AND I CAN FIND DIFFERENT AUNTIES AND UNCLES. AND IT'S GOOD BECAUSE FOR US THAT'S WHAT WE NEED. WE NEED THAT CONNECTION AND THAT INTERCONNECTEDNESS WITH ONE ANOTHER TO HELP SUPPORT US THROUGH THIS ROAD OF RECOVERY.

AND NARA IS THAT, THEY'RE THE FAMILY, THEY'RE THE FOUNDATION AND THEY HELP IN SO MANY DIFFERENT WAYS, NOT ONLY IS IT LIKE THE GOAL IS TO OVERCOME GETTING A LICENSE, GETTING INSURANCE, GETTING HOUSING, GETTING EDUCATION, THEY HAVE EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS, THEY HAVE GED DEPARTMENTS, THEY HAVE, YOU KNOW, YOUR HEALTH LIKE DENTISTS. AFTER SO MANY YEARS OF USING DRUGS, I'M SURPRISED I HAVE ALL MY TEETH, AND THEN YOU GO THERE AND THEY HELP SAVE YOUR TEETH AND THAT'S A HUGE DEAL BECAUSE, YOU KNOW, IT CAN REALLY HAVE A DAMPER ON YOUR SELF ESTEEM AND ALSO JUST KEEPING UP ON YOUR HEALTH, LIKE DIABETES AND ALL THESE THINGS THAT COME WITH IT. I JUST REALLY THANK NARA FOR EVERYTHING. THEY'RE A HUGE PIECE OF MY RECOVERY THROUGH ALL THE TREATMENT CENTERS I'VE BEEN THROUGH, THROUGH ALL MY WALKS OF MY LIFE, LIKE THIS IS THE BIGGEST PART THAT HAS FILLED THAT VOID IS THAT SPIRITUALITY OF GETTING BACK TO WHO I AM WHERE MY PEOPLE COME FROM AND HOW MUCH ACCEPTANCE THEY HAVE AND LOVE THEY HAVE FOR THEIR PEOPLE. THEY WILL GO OUT OF THEIR WAY TO HELP YOU. IT DON'T MATTER, THEY'LL HELP YOU AND THAT IS SUCH A BEAUTIFUL THING. AND THEY FEED US BREAKFAST, THEY FEED US LUNCH AT OUTPATIENT, I DON'T KNOW ANY OTHER PLACES THAT DO AND THAT'S BECAUSE THAT'S A HUGE CULTURE THING IS LIKE YOU FEED YOUR PEOPLE, YOU TAKE CARE OF THEM. YOU GIVE THEM A PLACE WARM TO GO TO, IF THEY'RE STRUGGLING, YOU KNOW WHERE YOU CAN GO FOR HELP. AND THAT'S NARA AND THAT'S LIKE THE MOST BEAUTIFULEST THING IS THAT'S LIKE

A SAFE PLACE FOR US AND NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU RELAPSE AND YOU KEEP GOING OUT AND KEEP COMING BACK, THEY'LL KEEP ACCEPTING YOU AND WANT THE BEST FOR YOU. THEY DON'T EVER SHUN YOU AWAY, THEY DON'T EVER TURN YOU AWAY. THEY ALWAYS WELCOME YOU WITH ARMS OPEN LIKE ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO AND THEY'LL HELP YOU. SO THAT'S ALL I HAVE TO SAY ABOUT NARA. [APPLAUSE]

JACKIE MERCER: I GUESS THE ONLY OTHER THINGS I WOULD SAY JUST TO KIND OF WRAP UP WHAT WE'RE SAYING AND I WAS GOING TO ASK PHILIP IF I MIGHT WANT TO ADD SOME THINGS IS THAT, YOU KNOW, I THINK IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND TREATMENT DOES WORK. AND THAT RELAPSE DOES HAPPEN. AND IT HAPPENS IN LARGE PART OUT OF THE DISEASE AND OUT OF THE TRAUMAS. SO IT MAY BE A STRAIGHT LINE FOR SOME PEOPLE, BUT FOR WHEN YOU'RE OVERCOMING LOTS OF TRAUMA, LOTS OF OBSTACLES TO GET HOUSING, LOTS OF OBSTACLES TO GET A JOB, MONEY, I STARTED TO SAY FOOD BOXES IN THE MAIL, BUT YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN. BUT AS YOU'RE TRYING TO SURVIVE, IT TAKES A LOT. IT DOESN'T MEAN THE TREATMENT DOESN'T WORK CUMULATIVELY OVER TIME AND WE HONOR OUR PEOPLE AND WELCOME THEM AND LOVE THEM AND WANT THEM TO BE HEALTHY AND SO WE WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND THAT, YOU KNOW, AND ALSO THAT, YOU KNOW, OUR COMMUNITY IS ROOTED IN RECOVERY AND ROOTED IN AN ABSTINENCE MODEL AND THIS MEDICATION ASSISTED THERAPY STUFF MAKES ME VERY ANXIOUS. IT CHANGES THE TREATMENT PROTOCOLS. I UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF IT, BUT IF YOU CAN HEAR THIS AND SEE THIS FROM THE PEOPLE, YOU KNOW, THIS IS -- YOU DON'T WANT TO RISK THIS TO DO SOMETHING ELSE. THERE HAS TO BE A WAY TO DO BOTH AND NOT THREATEN. SO TOO OFTEN WE HEAR MORE AND MORE LATELY YOU'VE GOT TO CHOOSE, YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR CHILDREN OR THE ELDERS OR CRAZY THINGS, YOU KNOW. WE CAN DO BOTH IF WE REALLY THINK ABOUT IT AND IT'S NOT PUSHED. SO THAT'S KIND OF WHAT I HAD TO SAY. MR. PHILIP WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADD ANYTHING?

PHILLIP: I COULD TALK ALL DAY. IT'S BEEN A GOOD EXPERIENCE FOR ME WHEN I FIRST CAME IN 1982. I MET THE PEOPLE THAT STARTED THIS PROGRAM, AND I REMEMBER A TIME THAT -- I WOULD LIKE TO GET IN THERE. I SAID I WANT TO WORK WITH MY PEOPLE. COME AND SIGN UP AND IF WE HAVE TIME, WE HAVE AN OPENING, WE'RE HIRING. I HAD JUST LEFT A PROGRAM LIKE THAT IN EUGENE, I WAS THERE FOR FOUR YEARS WORKING. AND HE CALLED ME UP WANTED TO KNOW IF I WOULD COME WORK FOR NARA, I SAID YEAH SURE, I DID. AND IT WAS A GREAT THING FOR ME, TOO. EVEN THOUGH I GREW UP ON A RESERVATION IN NORTH DAKOTA, I DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT MY CULTURE. THE SPIRITUAL PART. HOW OUR PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE LAND HERE HAVE GOTTEN THEIR SPIRITUAL WAYS OF LIFE TAKEN AWAY FROM THEM BY THE DOMINANT SOCIETY. I BELIEVE THE RELIGIONS ARE GOOD IF YOU USE THEM IN THE RIGHT WAY. OUR CEREMONIES ARE GOOD, TOO, IF YOU USE THEM IN THE RIGHT WAY TO HELP PEOPLE. [INAUDIBLE] MAKES YOU FEEL

GOOD, THOUGH, INSIDE, YOU KNOW. TO BE HAPPY INSIDE. I REMEMBER BEING AT A MEETING IN SEATTLE, I LIVE BY THE RIVER WITH MY FAMILY FOR YEARS, MY PARENTS -- MY MOTHER HAD A NICE WOOD STOVE AND KEROSENE LAMPS, OUTDOOR BATHROOM AND WE USED TO GO DOWN TO THE RIVER AND GET OUT WATER FOR EVERYTHING. THEY WERE HAPPY.

PHILLIP: UNTIL A GUY IN A BRIEFCASE CAME ALONG AND SAID YOU GUYS ARE POOR, YOU DON'T HAVE NOTHING. YOU DON'T GOT NO RUNNING WATER, YOU DON'T GOT NO ELECTRICITY, YOU DON'T GOT NO ELECTRIC GAS STOVE, DON'T HAVE AN INDOOR TOILET. THEY SAID WE ARE HAPPY, THOUGH. WHAT IS IT ABOUT BEING HAPPY? WHERE IS THAT REALLY AT? DOES THAT MATERIAL STUFF REALLY COUNT OR NOT? WE LEARN THAT FROM THE DOMINANT SOCIETY, GET HOOKED UP INTO THAT. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT WHO YOU ARE? I HAD TO COME OUT HERE IN OREGON FROM NORTH DAKOTA TO LEARN MY CULTURE STUFF. A GUY AND HIS UNCLE RUNNING A SACRED SUNDAY AT MT. HOOD. A FRIEND OF MINE CAME, WENT TO TREATMENT IN '72, FROM MINNESOTA CAME OUT AND HE WAS FROM A RESERVATION NORTH OF MINNEAPOLIS. AND HE BROUGHT A PIPE. HE SAID I WANT TO GIVE YOU THIS PIPE. AND I SAID WOW, A REAL INDIAN PIPE.

I TOOK IT IN MY HANDS. IT BELONGS TO YOUR PEOPLE, TOO. WHEN YOU HAVE A VISION QUEST YOU CAN PRAY ABOUT HOW TO USE THIS PIPE TO HELP YOUR PEOPLE. OKAY. AND. [INAUDIBLE] I WAS GETTING INTO THE CEREMONIES. FIRST THING YOU DO IS SUBMIT TO THE SWEAT LODGE, ALL THE FEELINGS AND EMOTIONS I HAVE IN MY HEART, GET IT ALL OUT. WHEN YOU GO ON A VISION QUEST, YOU DON'T TALK ABOUT CERTAIN THINGS, THE SPIRITS WILL PLAY WITH YOU. AND SO I ALSO GOT THE OKAY -- SUN DANCE WHERE WE DANCE FOR FOUR DAYS WITH NO FOOD AND WATER, . WE DON'T USE ANY MEDICINES. [INAUDIBLE] AND THAT'S WHAT'S KEPT ME GOING THROUGHOUT THE YEARS. I'VE SEEN A LOT OF PEOPLE DO THAT. THEY'RE STILL AT IT. THAT'S THE SPIRITUAL WAY OF LIFE. I GREW UP A CATHOLIC BACK HOME. UNTIL I GOT TOO BIG FOR MY STEPMOTHER TO BEAT ME UP TO GO TO CHURCH. WE HAVE A LODGE, WE HAVE TALKING CIRCLES. WE HAVE OTHER CEREMONIES THAT WE USE. IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU, NOBODY ELSE. THAT'S WHAT TREATMENT IS ABOUT. YOU. FIND OUT -- WHETHER WE'VE BEEN SURVIVORS, ABUSED, WE'VE BEEN DOWN THAT ROAD.

AND WE'VE SEEN A LOT FROM THAT. I KNOW IN '72 I WAS THINKING OF KILLING MYSELF BECAUSE I WATCHED MY OLDER BROTHER DIE FROM ALCOHOL. IF I'M SUFFERING LIKE HIM I MIGHT AS WELL KILL MYSELF, BUT THERE WAS A LITTLE SPARK -- [INAUDIBLE] GIVE ME THAT SPIRITUAL BELIEF. I SAID HELP ME, I NEED HELP, I'M DYING FROM ALCOHOL AND DRUGS. AND I HAD TO ALSO SAY -- LEARN TO LISTEN AND LISTEN TO LEARN. SO THAT'S WHAT I DID. SO WHEN I CAME TO WORK FOR NARA IT WAS GOOD. I WAS ABLE TO CONTINUE TO WORK WITH PEOPLE. I'VE SEEN A LOT OF RESULTS THROUGH THE YEARS. I'VE BEEN THERE 36 YEARS NOW. I'VE SEEN A LOT OF PEOPLE MAKE IT. SOME THAT I

THOUGHT WOULDN'T MAKE IT DID. SOME THAT I THOUGHT WOULD MAKE IT DIDN'T. YOU KNOW THAT ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADDICTION IS PROGRESSIVE, IT DOESN'T GET BETTER, IT GETS WORSE. SO WE HAVE TO WORK ON IT ALL THE TIME. SPIRITUALITY, WHATEVER RELIGION YOU BELONG TO, GOOD, JUST DO IT THE RIGHT WAY. THE BIBLE'S GOOD, TOO. USE IT IN THE RIGHT WAY. CEREMONIES ARE GOOD, TOO. USE THEM IN THE RIGHT WAY. WE DO CEREMONIES WITH THE DRUM, USUALLY FOR POWWOWING TO ENJOY OURSELVES, BUT WE DO ALSO USE IT FOR CEREMONIES IN THE SWEAT LODGE OR OTHER CEREMONIES, YEAH. SINGING SONGS. A LOT OF BEAUTIFUL HUMAN BEINGS THAT WORK WITH NARA. EVEN TODAY, WE HAVE A LOT OF PEOPLE. A LOT OF RESPECT AND LOVE FOR JACKIE MERCER OVER THERE. SHE HELPED US REALLY GET THIS THING GOING. WE'VE HAD OTHER DIRECTORS BEFORE THAT. BUT SHE'S ONE THAT'S REALLY HELPED US OUT TO WORK ON THE ISSUES WE HAVE. PLUS, SHE KEEPS US OUT OF POLITICS.

VICE-CHAIR STEGMANN: THANK YOU SO MUCH.

I WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU PEOPLE ARE SUPPORTING US, THANK YOU.

JACKIE MERCER: WOULD YOU ALL MIND COMING OUT IN FRONT OF THERE SO WE CAN DO THE HONOR SONG.

VICE-CHAIR STEGMANN: LET'S SEE IF THERE'S ANY QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, AND THEN WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO.

JACKIE MERCER: MS. MOLLY WANTS TO TELL YOU SOMETHING.

MOLLY ANN JONES: I WANT TO LET YOU GUYS THAT I HAVE NOW TWO YEARS CLEAN AND SOBER SO RECOVERY DOES WORK. [APPLAUSE] AND I'M PART OF THE NO MATTER WHAT CLUB. NO MATTER WHAT, I DON'T GOT TO PICK UP. NO MATTER WHAT, I CAN LIVE LIFE ON LIFE'S TERMS WITHOUT USING OR DRINKING. SO I JUST WANT TO LET YOU GUYS KNOW THAT, THANKS TO NARA.

COMMISSIONER MEIERAN: THANK YOU. THANK YOU ALL. FOR BEING HERE TODAY AND ESPECIALLY UP HERE FOR SHARING YOUR STORIES. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY. I MEAN, TRULY, TRULY INSPIRING AND WHAT YOU HAVE OVERCOME TO BE SITTING HERE TODAY IS -- REALLY SPEAKS TO YOURSELVES AND WHAT YOU HAVE INSIDE AND YOUR SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE AND ALSO, NARA, COULD NOT HAVE CHOSEN BETTER REPRESENTATIVES TO DEMONSTRATE WHAT YOU DO. JACKIE, I WAS, YOU KNOW, SORT OF -- I DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS A PUN THAT'S INTENDED, BUT VERY SOBERED BY THE DESCRIPTION OF THE HEALTH DISPARITIES THAT ARE EXPERIENCED, PARTICULARLY IN THE NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY. BUT GIVEN MY BACKGROUND AS YOU ALSO MENTIONED I AM NOT SHOCKED SADLY. I DID WORK AS A MEDICAL STUDENT AT THE NATIVE AMERICAN MEDICAL CENTER IN ANCHORAGE WHERE I HAVE TO SAY THAT WAS ONE OF THE MOST

PROFOUND AND EYE OPENING EXPERIENCES THAT I'VE HAD IN MY CAREER AS A PHYSICIAN. IT WAS TRULY INCREDIBLE AND ACTUALLY ONE OF MY DREAMS IS TO GO BACK AND WORK THERE. I'VE HAD TO PUT IT ON HOLD FOR A LITTLE WHILE BECAUSE I'M DOING THIS, BUT I DO INTEND TO GO BACK, BUT IN ADDITION TO SOME OF THOSE SOBERING AND SHOCKING STATISTICS THAT YOU MENTIONED, I'M ALSO JUST SO IMPRESSED AND EXCITED BY WHAT YOU DESCRIBE HAPPENING ABOUT NARA. YOU REALLY ARE A MODEL LIKE YOU WALK THE WALK. LIKE THAT IS THIS INTEGRATION OF ALL OF IT, OF THE PHYSICAL AND THE EMOTIONAL AND THE SPIRITUAL IS HOW OUR SYSTEMS NEED TO WORK AND YOU'VE DEMONSTRATED IT DOES WORK. I HAVE TO SAY ONE OF THE COOLEST THINGS THAT I'VE SEEN IN SITTING UP HERE AND LOOKING OUT IS EVERYONE'S SIGNS THAT ARE OUT THERE. RAISE THOSE SIGNS. [APPLAUSE] WOW. KEEP 'EM RAISED BECAUSE I'M GOING TO TAKE A PICTURE. JUST OF THE YEARS IN THIS ROOM CLEAN AND SOBER. SO THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING HERE AND SHOWING THIS. I THINK SOME OF YOU KNOW, YOU MAY HAVE HEARD MENTAL HEALTHCARE IS ONE OF MY BIGGEST PRIORITIES AND IT WAS REALLY COOL TO HEAR YOU TALK ABOUT THE RESOLUTION BACK, WAS IT 2009 YOU SAID? ONE.

JACKIE MERCER: 9TH, 2001.

COMMISSIONER MEIERAN: AUGUST 9TH, 2001.

JACKIE MERCER: 11:00 IN THE MORNING.

COMMISSIONER MEIERAN: I THINK IT IS TIME TO BE REVISITING AND REINVIGORATING THAT AND MAINTAINING AND BUILDING ON THE NEED FOR CULTURALLY SPECIFIC CARE, ESPECIALLY IN OUR MENTAL HEALTHCARE SERVICES SO I'M EXCITED TO BE CARRYING THAT ON AND JUST THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE. THIS WAS FANTASTIC.

JACKIE MERCER: THANK YOU.

COMMISSIONER SMITH: THANK YOU, MADAM VICE CHAIR. THANK YOU. JACKIE THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP. ME AND YOU GO WAY, WAY BACK TO SENATOR WYDEN, CONGRESSMAN WYDEN AND ALL THE FAMILIES THAT YOU'VE TOUCHED THROUGH NARA AND HAVING CULTURALLY SPECIFIC REHAB IS SO IMPORTANT. AND BEING ABLE TO HAVE EVERYONE HERE AND SEE THE FACES BEHIND WHAT YOU'VE DONE AND WHAT THE PROGRAM HAS DONE, IT IS INCREDIBLE. YOU ALL LOOK GREAT. YOU DO. YOU SHOULD GIVE YOURSELVES A HAND BECAUSE YOU LOOK WONDERFUL. AND LISTENING TO THE STORIES, HAVING THE COURAGE TO COME AND TALK ABOUT YOUR STORIES MR. PHILIP IN ALL THE HISTORY THAT YOU HAVE ABOUT THE PROGRAM AND HOW TO MAKE IT WORK IS HUGE. I HAVE THE GREAT PLEASURE OF HAVING MY SWEARING IN CEREMONY IN 2014 ON NEW YEAR'S EVE IN FRONT OF THOSE 5,000 PEOPLE AND MS. JACKIE, SHE INTRODUCED ME

AND SHE SAID COMMISSIONER SMITH IS FROM THE POT TRIBE AND WHAT? WE DIDN'T THAT. YES, MY GRANDMOTHER, MY MOTHER'S MOTHER WAS HALF-MULATTO -- AND MY GRANDFATHER WAS AFRICAN-AMERICAN. SHE SAID THIS IS WHERE YOU GOT THOSE BEAUTIFUL CHEEKS FROM. I THANK MY GRANDMOTHER FOR THAT. AND TO BE ABLE TO REPRESENT ALL OF YOU TO KNOW THAT THE GOOD WORK THAT YOU'RE DOING WITH OUR PUBLIC DOLLAR AND THE FEDERAL DOLLARS IS AMAZING AND IT'S OUTSTANDING SO KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK. THANK YOU.

JACKIE MERCER: THANK YOU.

COMMISSIONER VEGA PEDERSON: SO LOVE THAT. EVERYTHING FROM 23 YEARS TO TWO MONTHS, WHEREVER YOU ARE, CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU FOR SHOWING UP. AND THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING HERE. JACKIE THANK YOU FOR SHARING THE HISTORY OF NARA AND THE WAYS WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO WORK TOGETHER AND SUPPORT WITH THE NEED THAT'S IN THE COMMUNITY, I THINK WE HEARD ABOUT SOME OF THE HISTORY OF AFRICAN-AMERICANS IN OUR STATE, THE STORY OF AMERICAN INDIANS AND NATIVE FOLKS IN OUR STATE -- IN OUR STATE AND REGION AND OUR COUNTRY IS JUST AS TRAUMATIC AND, YOU KNOW, WE STILL DEAL WITH THAT LEGACY SO WE'VE GOT BIG SYSTEMATIC WORK TO DO, BUT WE ABSOLUTELY NEED THE WORK OF NARA AND ORGANIZATIONS LIKE YOU TO DO THE WORK THAT'S HELPING INDIVIDUALS EVERY DAY IN OUR LIFE. THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR STORY ABOUT HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO FIND THAT SPIRITUAL PIECE OF YOU AND HOW THAT IS SUCH AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE WORK THAT NARA DOES. AND THEN SAM, I WANTED TO JUST THANK YOU FOR YOUR MUSIC. I THINK WE ALL NEED A SONG TO WALK THROUGH THIS WORLD SOMETIMES SO THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR SHARING THAT WITH US TODAY, TOO.

VICE-CHAIR STEGMANN: THANK YOU. JACKIE AND ALL OF YOU WHO CAME AND SHARED YOUR STORIES WITH US THANK YOU SO MUCH. I, LIKE MANY PEOPLE, HAVE EXPERIENCED ADDICTION IN MY FAMILY AND YOU'RE RIGHT. IT IS A FAMILY PROBLEM. AND SO FOR YOU TO COME AND SHARE, IT'S SO REWARDING, OBVIOUSLY, MANY OF US WEREN'T ON THE COMMISSION BACK WHEN THEY GAVE YOU THE \$100,000, BUT I'M SO PLEASED THAT THEY DID AND CLEARLY, THAT HAS IMPACTED SO MANY LIVES. SO I AM SO PROUD TO BE A PART OF THAT LEGACY. AND YOU ALL ARE INSPIRATIONAL AND IT'S BEEN -- I FEEL HONORED TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO HAVE THIS BE MY FIRST MEETING THAT I'VE CHAIRED BECAUSE IT'S SO REPRESENTATIVE OF THE VALUES THAT I HOLD AND THAT THE ENTIRE BOARD HOLDS SO THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR COMING AND EDUCATING US MORE ABOUT THE IMPORTANT WORK THAT YOU DO. AND SO THIS WAS JUST A BRIEFING SO WE HAVE A LITTLE BIT MORE BUSINESS AND THEN RIGHT AFTER THAT IF YOU WOULD ALL STICK AROUND WE WOULD LOVE TO GET A PHOTO WITH YOU.

JACKIE MERCER: WHAT ABOUT THE HONORING?

VICE-CHAIR STEGMANN: WE CAN DO THAT FIRST IF YOU WOULD LIKE.

JACKIE MERCER: IT'S UP TO YOU.

VICE-CHAIR STEGMANN: LET'S DO THAT PART.

JACKIE MERCER: ARE YOU SURE? OKAY.

VICE-CHAIR STEGMANN: COME UP FRONT.

JACKIE MERCER: FIRST, I WANT TO WRAP YOU IN THE BLANKET IF THAT'S OKAY. WE WANT TO HONOR YOU WITH A NARA BLANKET AND IT OFFICIALLY MAKES YOU A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY. MS. LORETTA SUPPORTED US BEFORE IT WAS COOL. WE'RE SO GRATEFUL FOR THAT MONEY, BUT IT ISN'T ALL THE MONEY THAT YOU GIVE US SO TO BE CLEAR THAT WE HAVE OTHER CONTRACTS WITH YOU. I DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE IT THERE SO ANYWAY. LEROY IS GOING TO SING AN HONOR SONG IF I CAN FIND HIM. OKAY. DO YOU WANT TO DO YOUR SONG, LEROY? [APPLAUSE]

VICE-CHAIR STEGMANN: SHE'S GOT A COLLECTION. ALL RIGHT. THANK YOU, JACKIE. THANK YOU.

BOARD COMMENT – 10:30 am

BC.1 Opportunity as time allows, for the Commissioners to provide comment on non-agenda items.

VICE-CHAIR STEGMANN: ALL RIGHT. WE JUST HAVE A FEW MORE THINGS ON THE AGENDA. AND I THINK WE ARE NOW AT THE TIME OF OUR MEETING FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS. DOES ANYBODY HAVE AN ITEM THEY WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS?

COMMISSIONER SMITH: YES, MADAM VICE CHAIR I DO.

VICE-CHAIR STEGMANN: COMMISSIONER SMITH.

COMMISSIONER SMITH: MADAM VICE CHAIR, THANK YOU FOR THIS TIME. I HAVE A COUPLE OF ISSUES THAT I WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS TODAY. PEOPLE ARE MOVING OUT. DEALING WITH TWO DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF THE HOMELESS CRISIS. FIRST, I WOULD LIKE TO JUST TAKE A MOMENT TO SHARE SOME CONCERNS ABOUT THE RECENT CHANGES TO THE SALES AGREEMENT FOR WAPATO. LAST WEEK, THE 30 DAY EXTENSION REQUESTED BY THE BUYER WHICH WAS ALLOWED IN THE ORIGINAL CONTRACT VOTED ON BY THIS BOARD EXPIRED. AND I UNDERSTAND THAT OUR 4-1 VOTE BACK ON

NOVEMBER 9TH TOOK ALL DECISION -- LET'S SEE. ALL DECISIONS AND CHANGES TO THE SALES CONTRACT OUT OF THE HANDS OF THIS BOARD AND PUT IT IN THE HANDS OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY, COUNTY ASSETS, COUNTY CHAIR.

COMMISSIONER SMITH: AS A RESULT, I FULLY UNDERSTAND THERE IS NO ACTION WE CAN TAKE AS A BOARD TO STOP THIS AMENDMENT SHORT OF CHANGING THE SALE BUT GIVEN THE CONTROVERSIAL NATURE OF THIS PROPERTY, IT SEEMS ONLY RIGHT THAT WE LAY OUT IN THIS PUBLIC FORUM THE CHANGES MADE TO THE SALES AGREEMENT. THE PUBLIC WHO FUNDED THIS PROJECT HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW WHAT DECISIONS ARE BEING MADE REGARDING THIS PROPERTY. MY BIGGEST CONCERN RESOLVES AROUND A CHANGE IN THE FINANCIAL OBLIGATION THE SELLER HAS TO THE COUNTY. ON NOVEMBER 1ST, THE SALES AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED AND \$200,000 EARNEST MONEY WAS PROVIDED BY THE BUYER AND PLACED INTO ESCROW. THAT \$200,000 WILL BE NONREFUNDABLE AT THE END OF THE DUE DILIGENCE PERIOD. THEN IN EARLY JANUARY WE WERE TOLD THE BUYER WANTED TO EXERCISE HIS RIGHT TO ONE 30-DAY EXTENSION OF THE DUE DILIGENCE PERIOD. IT WAS REQUIRED THAT \$300,000 BE PROVIDED BY THE BUYER AT THE BEGINNING OF THAT 30 DAY PERIOD AND EXTENSION. THAT \$300,000 WILL BECOME IMMEDIATELY NONREFUNDABLE AND WOULD ROLL OVER TO THE COUNTY AT THE END OF THE DUE DILIGENCE PERIOD.

THIS WAS VERY CLEAR IN THE ORIGINAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE SALES AGREEMENT THAT WAS VOTED ON BY THIS BOARD. NOW, NOT ONLY HAVE WE GRANTED AN ADDITIONAL 45 DAYS TO THE DUE DILIGENCE PERIOD FOR THE BUYER, THE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT FOR THE \$300,000 DEPOSIT INTO ESCROW HAS BEEN WAIVED ALTOGETHER. IT MAKES ME WONDER WHETHER A BUYER WHO WAS SELECTED WHO CANNOT ACTUALLY AFFORD TO PURCHASE THIS PROPERTY AND TO ADD TO MY CONCERNS, WE NOW HAVE A COMMENT FROM THE BUYER IN THE MEDIA THAT HE IS STILL WORKING OUT THE ECONOMICS OF THE SALE AND MENTIONED THAT HE SHOULD DECIDE IF THIS IS THE RIGHT DECISION. I WAS INFORMED BY OUR FACILITIES DEPARTMENT THAT THE FINANCIALS WERE CORRECT, AND THEY WERE READY TO INVEST.

THAT IS WHY WE CHOSE A \$10.8 MILLION BUYER. BEYOND MY INTEREST IN OPENING WAPATO DURING THE CRITICAL WINTER MONTHS WHICH WAS SUBVERTED BY THE SALES AGREEMENT I HAVE REAL CONCERNS THAT THIS CONTRACT WOULD BE SUBJECT TO CONSIDERABLE CHANGE AND AMENDMENT WITHOUT CONSIDERATION BY A VOTE OF THIS BOARD. IT APPEARS MY CONCERNS WERE JUSTIFIED AS WE SEE NOW THAT THE CHAIR AND THE DEPARTMENT OF COUNTY ASSETS ALLOWING FOR A SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE TO THE CONTRACT ORIGINALLY VOTED ON BY THIS BOARD. WHETHER YOU AGREE WITH ME ON ANY GIVEN ACTION IF YOU LOOK BACK OVER THE SEVEN YEARS IN OFFICE, YOU WILL SEE I'M CONSISTENT, I CARE

ABOUT THE PROCESS, I CARE ABOUT THE PUBLIC AND THE INFORMATION THAT'S DELIVERED AND I WANT US TO BE TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE. I WANT US TO BE ASKED BEFORE THE DEAL IS MADE, BEFORE THE EXTENSION IS MADE.

COMMISSIONER SMITH: TIME AND TIME AGAIN, THE HARD QUESTIONS I ASKED REVOLVED AROUND GETTING A BETTER UNDERSTANDING WHERE THE MONEY IS COMING FROM AND WHERE IT IS GOING. THE PUBLIC HAS THE RIGHT TO KNOW AND WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE THAT INFORMATION TO THEM. WE DO OUR BEST WHEN WE DO IT IN THE FULL VIEW OF THE CONSTITUENCY. AND WHETHER REQUIRED BY LAW OR NOT, I URGE THIS BOARD THAT ANY FURTHER SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES MADE TO THIS CONTRACT MOVING FORWARD BE SHARED IN THIS FORUM AND GET A VOTE BY THIS BOARD. THE SECOND ITEM I MUST ADDRESS IS THE FAMILY SHELTER THAT WAS EVACUATED THIS PAST WEEK. BACK IN 2015, I VOTED AND WE PROVIDED A \$400,000 GRANT AND A \$300,000 FORGIVABLE LOAN TO HUMAN SOLUTIONS FOR DEFERRED MAINTENANCE ON THIS BUILDING. NOW, ONLY WHEN THE MEDIA GETS INVOLVED ARE WE GETTING WORD THAT THE 110 PORTLANDERS LIVING IN THAT SHELTER WERE LIVING IN SQUALOR CONDITIONS. LEAKING ROOFS AND PERSISTENT INFESTATION OF RATS. THIS IS ABSOLUTELY OUTRAGEOUS. NOT ONE OF US SITTING ON THIS DAIS TODAY WOULD LIVE IN SUCH CONDITIONS AND YET, WE EXPOSE OUR COUNTY'S MOST VULNERABLE TO THESE CONDITIONS.

HERE IS WHAT I WANT TO KNOW AND I WILL BE SUBMITTING A REQUEST TO GET A LINE ITEM BUDGET, WHICH I REQUESTED IN 2015 BEFORE WE VOTED ON THIS, WHAT WERE THE DEFERRED MAINTENANCE THAT WE HAD TO DO ON THIS PROPERTY BEFORE WE ALLOWED THIS \$750,000 TO GO OUT THE DOOR? IT CLEARLY WASN'T ON A NEW ROOF. AND I AM GUESSING THOSE BLUE TARPS DIDN'T COST \$700,000. I WANT TO KNOW WHO AT THE COUNTY KNEW WHAT AND WHEN AND HOW LONG WERE WE AWARE THESE CONDITIONS BEFORE WE ACTED? AND FINALLY, IN THE COMING WEEK, I WILL BE ASKING FOR AN AUDIT AND HAVING TAKEN THE TIME AS MANY CONVERSATIONS THAT I'VE HAD ON THIS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND WHEN AND WHERE TO DETERMINE IF I'M SATISFIED. I WILL BE BACK AT OUR NEXT BOARD MEETING CALLING FOR THE COUNTY AND CITY AUDITORS TO REVIEW EVERY ONE OF THE SHELTERS CURRENTLY BEING FUNDED BY THE COUNTY. IN BOTH INSTANCES, WE AS A BOARD, WE HAVE ALL FAILED. IT IS OUR JOB TO BE THE WATCHDOG OF THE PUBLIC'S MONEY. WHETHER THAT IS MONEY COMING FROM THE SALE OF A PROPERTY OR MONEY GOING OUT TO A CONTRACTOR. I HOPE THAT THIS BOARD WILL JOIN ME IN GETTING THOSE QUESTIONS ANSWERED. THANK YOU, AND MADAM VICE CHAIR I JUST WANT TO SAY THERE ARE A COUPLE OF MY STAFF EARLIER THAT WERE NOT HERE, MS. DIDI, I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE. I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN HERE FOR A COUPLE OF MONTHS AND EVERYONE ELSE GOT THANKED PUBLICLY AND YOU WERE NOT HERE AND

WHERE IS GIOVANNI, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR WORK IN THE SUMMER WORKS PROGRAM. IT HAS BEEN REALLY, REALLY HELPFUL. THANK YOU.

VICE-CHAIR STEGMANN: OKAY. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING? ALL RIGHT. AND I JUST WANTED TO SEND THE CHAIR'S REGRETS FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO ATTEND TODAY'S MEETING. SHE IS IN SALEM ADVOCATING, SHE'S MEETING WITH LEADERSHIP THERE. AS YOU ALL KNOW, WE ARE LOOKING FOR FUNDING STRATEGIES TO SERVE OUR MOST VULNERABLE SO I APPRECIATE HER EFFORTS AT THE LEGISLATURE AND FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHAIR TODAY'S MEETING SO THANK YOU.

ADJOURNMENT – 12:08 pm

HEARING NO OTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING IS ADJOURNED. [GAVEL]

[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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http://multnomah.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=3

Submitted by:
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Board of County Commissioners
Multnomah County, Oregon