

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

PROCLAMATION NO. _____

**Proclaiming August 2015 as National Breastfeeding Awareness Month in
Multnomah County, Oregon.**

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

1. World Breastfeeding Month is part of a campaign to empower communities, businesses, child care providers, and families to commit to breastfeeding and supporting breastfeeding by highlighting new practices and policies that support the positive impacts of this practice for infants, mothers and communities.
2. Women with children are the fastest-growing segment of the work force. Balancing work and family is an important priority for them. Today, over 75 percent of women in the United States begin breastfeeding. When they return to work after their babies are born, time and space to express their milk during the work period help them continue to give their best to their work and their baby. Family-friendly benefits also bring a business a 3:1 Return on Investment (ROI) through lower health care costs, lower employee absenteeism rates (since babies are healthier), lower turnover rates, and higher employee productivity and loyalty.
3. Breastfeeding saves money. Formula and feeding supplies can cost well over \$1,500 each year, and formula-fed babies are more commonly subject to ear infections and diarrhea. Breastfed babies are sick less often; and need fewer sick care visits, prescriptions, and hospitalizations.
4. Breastfeeding is a cost-effective way to improve individual and community health. Recent research shows that if 90 percent of families breastfed exclusively for six months, nearly 1,000 deaths among infants could be prevented. The United States would also save \$13 billion per year because medical care costs are lower for fully breastfed infants than never-breastfed infants.
5. Multnomah County supports changes throughout the community – where we live, work, learn, play and worship – that support breastfeeding and the effort to give babies the healthiest start possible.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

August 2015 as National Breastfeeding Awareness Month in Multnomah County,
Oregon.

ADOPTED this 27th day of August, 2015.

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

Chair Deborah Kafoury

SUBMITTED BY: Commissioner Loretta Smith, District 2