



MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(Revised: 8/18/11)

Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 5/9/13
Agenda Item #: R.13
Est. Start Time: 11:40 am
Date Submitted: 5/1/13

Agenda Title: **Proclamation Declaring May 9, 2013 Environmental Health Specialist Day in Multnomah County, Oregon.**

Note: If Ordinance, Resolution, Order or Proclamation, provide exact title. For all other submissions, provide a clearly written title sufficient to describe the action requested.

Requested Meeting Date: May 9, 2013 **Time Needed:** 15 minutes
Department: Commissioner Deborah Kafoury **Division:** District 1
Contact(s): Liz Smith Currie
Phone: 503-988-4435 **Ext.** 84435 **I/O Address:** 503/6

Presenter Name(s) & Title(s): Lila Wickham, manager, Multnomah County Environmental Health, Christie Sweitz and Gerald Barnes, Environmental Health Supervisors

1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

Proclaim May 9, 2013 as the "Environmental Health Specialist Day."

2. Please provide sufficient background information for the Board and the public to understand this issue. Please note which Program Offer this action affects and how it impacts the results.

This proclamation names May 9, 2013 as Environmental Health Specialist Day. Multnomah County employs 20 Environmental Health Specialists who work to reduce or eliminate environmental health risk factors that cause human suffering, disease or injuries. In Multnomah County, Environmental Health Specialists work varies tremendously but can include: inspecting the restaurants and food carts where we dine, ensuring the water that comes from our faucet is safe and free of harmful pathogens, investigating cases of lead poisoning in children, ensuring that housing is safe, habitable and healthy, protecting our children by inspecting childcare facilities and investigating communicable disease outbreaks tied to food, water or other environmental sources.

In some ways, the Environmental Health Specialist is the “unsung hero” of public health. According to an article in *Environmental Health* (Kochitzky, C. 2010, pp: 30-33), in the last 100 years, environmental health specialists have increased life expectancy in the United States by 30 years, with 80 percent of this improvement coming from safer food and drinking water.

The quality of life and health experienced by the residents of Multnomah County has been greatly improved because of the dedication and hard work of our Environmental Health Specialists.

3. Explain the fiscal impact (current year and ongoing).

N/A

4. Explain any legal and/or policy issues involved.

N/A

5. Explain any citizen and/or other government participation that has or will take place.

The Governor proclaimed April 22, 2013 as a state Environmental Health Specialist Day. Hood River has also passed a proclamation recognizing its Environmental Health Specialists.

Required Signature

**Elected
Official or
Department
Director:**

Commissioner Kafoury /s/

**Date:
May 1, 2013**
