

1 BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

2 FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

3 ORDINANCE NO. 665

4
5 An ordinance establishing a Community Action Commission to
6 address the needs of low income citizens in Multnomah County,
7 to serve as the focal point for citizen involvement and
8 advocacy in the emergency basic needs and community action
9 service system, and to serve as the federally mandated
10 community action board for Multnomah County.

11 Multnomah County ordains as follows:

12 Section I. Findings and Purpose

13 (A) On July 1, 1988, pursuant to County Resolution 88-25 a
14 single, countywide community action agency was created in the
15 Multnomah County Department of Human Services, with the Board
16 of County Commissioners serving as the countywide governing
17 board.

18 (B) On July 1, 1990, pursuant to County Resolutions 90-46
19 and 90-102 the Aging Services Division assumed direct
20 responsibility for ensuring citizen involvement, advocacy,
21 planning, and contracting for delivery of services in the
22 community action service system, through the division's
23 Community Action Program Office.

24 (C) Federal and state statutes and rules require that a
25 community action agency which is an office, division, or agency
26 of a political subdivision be administered by a community

1 action board of at least nine but no more than 33 members,
2 which shall provide for the operation of the agency and be
3 directly responsible to the governing board of the subdivision.

4 (D) The Board of Directors of Metropolitan Community
5 Action, Inc. (MCA), which has served as the county's designated
6 community action board since July 1, 1988, has recommended that
7 the Board of County Commissioners establish a Community Action
8 Commission to address the needs of low income citizens in
9 Multnomah County, to serve as the focal point for citizen
10 involvement and advocacy in the emergency basic needs and
11 community action service system, and to serve as the federally
12 mandated community action board for Multnomah County.

13 (E) On June 28, 1990, the Board of County Commissioners
14 accepted the recommendations of the MCA Board and, upon finding
15 that it is in the interest of the county to establish such a
16 commission pursuant to Section 3.70 of Multnomah County's Home
17 Rule Charter, directed the Aging Services Division to prepare
18 this ordinance for the purpose of establishing a Community
19 Action Commission and providing for the mission, powers,
20 duties, membership, organization and staffing thereof.

21 Section II. Definitions

22 For the purposes of this ordinance, unless the context
23 requires otherwise, the following items are defined as follows:

24 (A) Governing Board: Board of County Commissioners of
25 Multnomah County, Oregon.

26 (B) Administering Board: The community action board

1 established for a community action agency which is an office,
2 division, or agency of a political subdivision, with
3 membership, powers and duties prescribed in ORS 184.802.

4 (C) Commission: Community Action Commission established
5 by this ordinance to serve as Multnomah County's community
6 action board and other identified functions.

7 (D) Division: Aging Services Division of the Multnomah
8 County Department of Human Services.

9 (E) Program: The community action program operated with
10 federal, state and local anti-poverty funds by the Division's
11 Community Action Program Office in its capacity as the county's
12 community action agency.

13 Section III. Establishment of Commission

14 (A) A Community Action Commission is hereby established to
15 serve such functions as are identified below pertaining to the
16 needs of low income people in Multnomah County.

17 (B) The Community Action Commission shall have the
18 mission, powers, duties, membership, organization and staffing
19 provided to it through this ordinance.

20 (C) The mission of the Community Action Commission shall
21 be to counteract the causes and consequences of poverty in
22 Multnomah County:

23 1) by advocating to increase the availability of
24 resources and opportunities for low income citizens to meet
25 their basic needs, to empower themselves, to improve their
26 quality of life, and to achieve self sufficiency;

1 2) by promoting a more equitable distribution of
2 resources and access to opportunities; and

3 3) by coordinating efforts to eradicate poverty,
4 hunger, and homelessness.

5 Section IV. General Powers and Duties

6 (A) The Community Action Commission shall serve as the
7 focal point for citizen involvement and advocacy in the
8 emergency basic needs and community action service system in
9 Multnomah County, through:

10 (1) Providing citizen leadership to further policies,
11 planning, and programs which will empower low income
12 individuals and families and improve their quality of life, in
13 partnership with funders, program staff, providers, and
14 constituents in the community action service system;

15 (2) Representing the views and voicing the needs of
16 low income individuals and families to policy makers, funders,
17 program staff, providers, and the general community, and
18 providing review and comment regarding public issues and
19 proposals which impact low income citizens;

20 (3) Educating the general community regarding the
21 extent and impact of poverty, hunger, homelessness and other
22 issues affecting low income citizens, and their negative effect
23 on the quality of life in our community;

24 (4) Collecting, maintaining, and providing information
25 on low income issues, including dissemination through public
26 forums and conferences;

1 (5) Advocating on behalf of low income citizens for
2 resources, for policy and system changes, and for needed
3 programs and services, both in the public and private sectors;

4 (6) Mobilizing public support for the Commission's
5 advocacy efforts, and coordinating its advocacy activities with
6 other community groups;

7 (7) Conducting studies and hearings to identify,
8 assess, and prioritize the needs of low income citizens in
9 Multnomah County and to evaluate the service system's capacity
10 to meet those needs, and disseminating the Commission's
11 findings to policy makers, funders, providers, and other
12 interested persons and entities in the community;

13 (8) Participating in the formulation of system
14 policies for meeting the basic needs of low income citizens and
15 for promoting their self-sufficiency and independent and
16 dignified living;

17 (9) Reviewing, monitoring, and evaluating system and
18 program effectiveness in accomplishing established goals,
19 objectives, and priorities for service delivery to low income
20 citizens;

21 (10) Representing the interests of low income citizens
22 in advising program staff regarding planning for a coordinated
23 and comprehensive system of services, and the development of an
24 annual plan of action which specifies strategies and activities
25 to make progress toward meeting the goals of the plan;

1 (11) Representing the interests of low income
2 citizens, providing citizen participation and oversight, and
3 advising program staff and the governing board on all matters
4 related to the development, structure and administration of the
5 county's community action program and the operations conducted
6 thereunder, and related to the duties delegated to the
7 Community Action Commission by the governing board; and

8 (12) Providing ongoing advice, guidance, and
9 recommendations to program staff and the governing board on
10 policy decisions and program development, both in the planning
11 and implementation phases.

12 (B) The Community Action Commission shall serve as the
13 federally mandated community action board for Multnomah
14 County's community action program, to administer and provide
15 for the operation of the agency as required by federal statutes
16 and ORS 184.802, through:

17 (1) Being directly responsible to the governing board
18 for the operation of the community action program;

19 (2) Reviewing and approving program policies related
20 to the expenditure of federal and state anti-poverty funds,
21 including the Community Services Block Grant, Low Income Energy
22 Assistance Program, Department of Energy Weatherization
23 Program, Emergency Food and Shelter Program, State Homeless
24 Assistance Program, and such other anti-poverty funds as may
25 become available to the program;

- 1 (3) Being involved in and consulted on the hiring,
2 evaluation, and firing of the agency director;
3 (4) Monitoring and evaluating program effectiveness;
4 (5) Insuring the effectiveness of community
5 involvement in the planning process; and
6 (6) Assuming all duties delegated to it by the
7 governing board.

8 Section V. Membership

9 (A) The commission shall consist of twenty-four (24)
10 members. Members shall serve without compensation, except that
11 members may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses involved in
12 the performance of their duties. Representation shall be as
13 follows:

14 (1) One-third (eight) of the members shall be elected
15 public officials currently serving or their designees;

16 (2) At least one-third (eight) of the members shall be
17 low income citizens of Multnomah County (maximum income of 125%
18 of federal poverty guidelines at the time of appointment);

19 (3) The balance of members shall represent business,
20 industry, labor, religious, welfare, education, neighborhood
21 associations or other major groups and interests in the
22 community; and

23 (4) Alternates may be designated for low income and
24 private sector members.

1 (B) Composition of the commission should reflect community
2 diversity in so much as is possible, including age, disability,
3 economic status, ethnic backgrounds, geographic distribution,
4 racial minorities, and sex.

5 (C) Elected officials and private sector members shall be
6 appointed in accordance with Section 3.70 of the Multnomah
7 County Home Rule Charter.

8 (D) Low income members shall be selected by the sitting
9 members of the commission through democratic selection
10 procedures adequate to insure that they are representative of
11 the poor in Multnomah County.

12 (E) Terms of appointment and selection shall coordinate
13 with the fiscal year, July 1 to June 30. Length of terms shall
14 be for two (2) years, except that initial appointments and
15 selections shall be staggered so that one half expire on June
16 30, 1991 and one half expire on June 30, 1992. Members may
17 serve three (3) consecutive terms. Initial terms expiring on
18 June 30, 1991, shall not be included in this limitation.

19 Section VI. Organization

20 The commission shall adopt bylaws, with the approval of the
21 governing board, which shall address such issues as terms of
22 appointment, vacancies, officers, conduct of business,
23 committees, responsibilities of membership and other such
24 issues as the commission may deem appropriate.


1 Section VII. Staffing

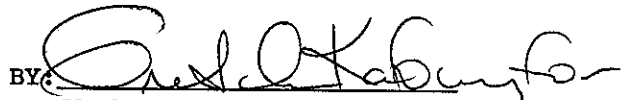
2 The commission shall be provided an appropriate level of
3 staff support, communication, and technical assistance by the
4 Division's Community Action Program Office in order to carry
5 out its designated functions.

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7 Adopted this 18th day of October, 1990, being
8 the date of its second reading before the Board of County
9 Commissioners of Multnomah County, Oregon.



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15 REVIEWED:

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18 LAURENCE KRESSEL, COUNTY COUNSEL
 of Multnomah County, Oregon

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22 BY: 
 Gladys McCoy, Chair
 Multnomah County, Oregon

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