

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

**PROCLAMATION NO. 2011-147**

Proclamation In Response To The Great Need In Our Community To Support A One-Year Pilot With Religious Institutions And Not-For-Profit Organizations To Provide Overnight Sleeping Options For Individuals And Families Currently Experiencing Homelessness.

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

- a. In 2004, the City of Portland and Multnomah County adopted *Home Again: A 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Portland and Multnomah County* as a long-term guiding framework to build and maintain a coordinated and efficient system of housing and services that work to end homelessness within our community.
- b. In support of *Home Again*, Multnomah County and its partnering jurisdictions are committed to ongoing investment in a combination of strategies that end homelessness, with emphasis on long-term cost-effective solutions including permanent supportive housing development, short- and long-term rent assistance, homelessness prevention, rapid-rehousing, and emergency shelter.
- c. In spite of these highly effective efforts, the 2011 Point-in-Time Count of Homelessness in Portland/Multnomah County found that, on any given night, more than 1,700 people, including families with children, single individuals, and couples sleep on the streets, in vehicles or other places not meant for human habitation.
- d. This winter is especially challenging with the family winter warming center funded by Multnomah County already exceeding capacity, leaving numerous families and individuals without shelter options.
- e. Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) and other local faith community leaders have requested that the city and county provide opportunities for faith communities and not-for-profit service providers to promote safety and a good night's sleep for people experiencing homelessness by engaging in a one-year pilot of small-scale overnight sleeping options within the City of Portland and unincorporated Multnomah County in the form of overnight sleeping in up to four vehicles, campers or trailers on the parking lot of religious institutions and not-for-profit service providers;
- f. Similar small-scale overnight sleeping programs have operated successfully in other West Coast communities, including an effective effort in Eugene, Oregon, operating for more than thirteen years;
- g. Given the commitment of Multnomah County and its partnering jurisdictions to ongoing investment in strategies that end homelessness and given the great need in our community for additional options this winter and in the coming year, Multnomah County desires to support the request by EMO and other local faith community leaders.

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

1. Our support for the request by EMO and other local faith community leaders and the pilot effort proposed to provide the requested small-scale overnight sleeping options;
2. Our thanks to our faith community partners for responding to the deep need in our community and offering to assist individuals and families in this manner;
3. Our support to convene, in partnership with the City of Portland, a group of participating faith community and not-for-profit agency leaders to evaluate effectiveness of overnight sleeping activities and report back to the Board within twelve months.

ADOPTED this 22nd day of December, 2011.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

  
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Jeff Cogen, Chair

SUBMITTED BY: Deborah Kafoury, Commissioner District 1