

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

**PROCLAMATION NO. 07-122**

Proclaiming June 27, 2007 as "MY FRIEND WITH AIDS IS STILL MY FRIEND"  
Day in Multnomah County, Oregon

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

- a) HIV/AIDS pandemic presents one of the greatest medical and social challenges of our time;
- b) More than 40 million people on our planet are currently living with HIV/AIDS;
- c) On the national level, the HIV/AIDS pandemic has a disproportionately negative impact on members of the African American Community;
  - ▶ Of the estimated 40,000 new HIV infections each year, more than 50 percent occur among African Americans
  - ▶ In 1998, African American women constituted 64 percent of new female AIDS cases, African American men accounted for 50 percent of new AIDS cases among men.
  - ▶ AIDS is the number one cause of death for Black adults aged 25 to 44
  - ▶ Black senior citizens represent over 50 percent of HIV cases among persons over 55.
  - ▶ Black children represent almost two-thirds (62 percent) of all reported pediatric AIDS cases.
- d) Infection patterns in the Portland metropolitan area do not mirror the same patterns experienced in other parts of our country; however, there is disparity in rates of infection among African Americans in Oregon and we must insure that we reverse the trend of increased infections among African Americans.
- e) One of the many barriers to successful education and prevention of HIV/AIDS is the social stigma associated with the disease;

- f) One of the important ways by which we can prevent the rise of infections is for people to be tested so that each one knows his/her HIV status;
- g) Concerned members of Multnomah County's African American community are launching a campaign proclaiming, "MY FRIEND WITH AIDS IS STILL MY FRIEND" today June 27, 2007 which is also National HIV Testing Day;
- h) Multnomah County is concerned with and invested in promoting the health and welfare of all of its citizens and thereby supports the African American Community's campaign to raise awareness, reduce stigma and encourage HIV testing.

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

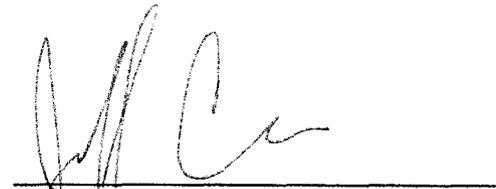
June 27, 2007 as "MY FRIEND WITH AIDS IS STILL MY FRIEND" Day in Multnomah County, Oregon

ADOPTED this 21st day of June, 2007.

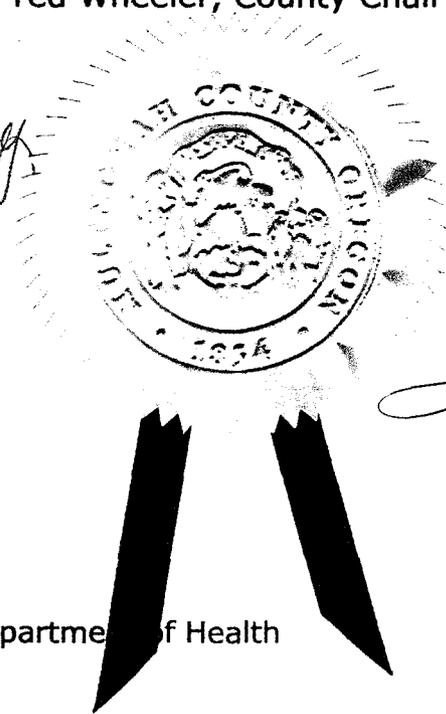
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

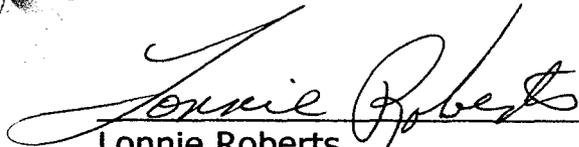
  
Ted Wheeler, County Chair

  
Maria Rojo de Steffey,  
Commissioner District 1

  
Jeff Cogen  
Commissioner District 2

  
Lisa Naito,  
Commissioner District 3



  
Lonnie Roberts,  
Commissioner District 4

SUBMITTED BY:  
Lillian Shirley, Director, Department of Health