



MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(Revised: Oct. 2017)

Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 6/14/18
Agenda Item #: R.7
Est. Start Time: 10:45 a.m.
Date Submitted: 6/7/18

Agenda Title: Proclaiming June 19th, 2018 as Juneteenth Day in Multnomah County

Requested Date: 6/14/18

Time Needed: 15 min

Department/Division: Non-Departmental

Contacts: Callie Love

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Presenters: Aimeera Flint, Avel Gordly, and other invited guests.

General Information:

1. What are you requesting from the Board?

Approval of a Proclamation proclaiming June 19th, 2018 as Juneteenth Day in Multnomah County.

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

Juneteenth is the annual observation recognizing the Emancipation Proclamation which freed all remaining slaves in Texas on June 19th, 1865. On this day 42 states in the US including the District of Columbia celebrated the abolition of slavery which gave all slaves freedom and equal rights. This day is also known as Freedom Day and Emancipation Day and is heavily recognized in African American communities nationwide.

Slavery here in the United States can be traced back to the 16th century when Spanish explorers brought African slaves with them to the New World. Slavery lasted until the Emancipation Proclamation came into effect on January 1, 1863. However, on this date, Texas was still largely opposed to the abolition of slavery. It wasn't until two years later, on June 19, 1865, when Union soldiers went to Texas to take control and enforce the freedom of

slaves. It was the newly freed slaves from Galveston Texas that held public celebrations and laid the foundation for future Juneteenth activities. Juneteenth was mostly celebrated in the south but over the years has grown to be acknowledged across many states. However, it is still not considered a National holiday and there is a current campaign advocating for June 19th to be observed nationally.

Juneteenth was first celebrated here in Multnomah County in 1945 when Clara Peoples organized the very first event. Traditionally, the celebration of Juneteenth kicks off with the Clara Peoples Freedom Trail Parade, followed by a community festival. This is a time to celebrate and honor African American's freedom with an emphasis on education and achievement.

Multnomah County takes this opportunity to celebrate Avel Gordly. In 1996 she made history by becoming the first African American woman sworn in as an Oregon State Senator. It was then a few short years later in 1999 when Avel became the chief petitioner for the constitutional amendment that removed the state's black exclusion laws from Oregon records.

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

None.

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

None.

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

None.

Required Signature:

Elected Official/ Department Director:	/s/	Date:	
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