

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

**PROCLAMATION NO. 99-68**

Affirming support of Oregon Uniting's "Day of Acknowledgment, Year of Progress and Future of Equality" project.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners finds:

- a. Oregon's history has been marred by racial discrimination, exclusion, bigotry and great injustice toward people of color, including Native Americans, African Americans, Latinos, Chinese Americans, Japanese Americans and Pacific Islanders.
- b. Such mistreatment based on race has been allowed and enforced through our laws and legal system.
- c. An example of such a law was an act passed by the Oregon Territorial Assembly in 1849 (and later repealed) which expressly excluded African Americans from the Territory.
- d. The lingering effects of this history combined with present day discrimination continues to cause harm and pain to people of color and limits the quality and dignity of all of our lives.
- e. People of all races have worked to improve the racial climate and remove the effects of past and present exclusion and discrimination.
- f. The Oregon Legislature has passed a Resolution acknowledging the history of exclusion, condemning the attitudes behind it and acknowledging the people of all races who have moved us in a more positive direction.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners proclaims:

1. An honest acknowledgment of our racial history and open dialogue can lead to racial healing and reconciliation and free us to move constructively into a better future for all if we take personal

responsibility for change by examining and changing our personal attitudes which perpetuate structural, economic and racial separation.

2. The Board supports Oregon Uniting's "Day of Acknowledgment, Year of Progress and a Future of Equality."
3. The Board will endeavor to increase public awareness of racial discrimination and work toward the full participation of racial minorities in all aspects of Oregon life as we work toward a future of racial equality.
4. The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners, in the interest of promoting racial reconciliation and healing described above, encourages all residents of Multnomah County to participate in honest interracial dialogue essential to positive social change.

Adopted this 22nd day of April, 1999.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON



  
Beverly Stein, Chair