

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-123**

Support for Columbia Empowerment Zone Application

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

- a. The City of Portland and Multnomah County applied for Round I Empowerment Zone designation and were granted Enterprise Community designation in 1994.
- b. The Cities of Vancouver and Portland, in partnership with Multnomah County, and the North/Northeast Economic Development Alliance, have sent a Notice of Intent to submit a bi-state application that includes portions of each city to become the Columbia Empowerment Zone.
- c. Round III Empowerment Zone Designation provides an opportunity for Multnomah County and community partners to use federal programs and tax incentives and leverage state and local resources to increase employment and wealth in some of the County's most distressed areas.
- d. Empowerment Zone Designation enables Multnomah County and the Cities of Portland and Vancouver to strategically address joblessness, high unemployment, and housing issues in areas with average poverty rates of over 38%.
- e. Designation provides benefits over eight years, including federal tax incentives and \$130 million in bond financing, to promote business retention, expansion and development, new job creation, and housing opportunities in 14 census tracts in Portland and three in Vancouver.
- f. Multnomah County currently provides services and significant resources as a community partner in the proposed Empowerment Zone.
- g. Multnomah County and its community partners could bring additional resources and services to the proposed Empowerment Zone.

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

1. Multnomah County will continue to support community economic development programs that provide opportunities for low-income citizens to obtain living wage jobs.
2. Multnomah County will submit a Round III Empowerment Zone Application in partnership with the Cities of Portland and Vancouver and the North/Northeast Economic Development Alliance.
3. By September 20, 2001 Multnomah County will submit a letter to Columbia Empowerment Zone that lists current services and additional resources and services that could be provided to the Empowerment Zone. The Department of Sustainable Community Development is directed to prepare this letter for signature by the Commissioners.

ADOPTED this 13th day of September 2001.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Diane M. Linn, Chair

REVIEWED:

THOMAS SPONSLER, COUNTY ATTORNEY  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By

Thomas Sponsler, County Attorney