

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

PROCLAMATION NO. _____

Proclaiming February 8, 2018 as Reverend Dr. W.G. Hardy Jr. (Pastor Hardy) Appreciation Day

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

1. Reverend Dr. W.G. Hardy Jr. has served the people of Multnomah County for decades. He was born April 13, 1957. He passed away on February 2, 2018.
2. Dr. W.G. Hardy's passion for holistic health and social justice were inseparable from his faith. As a Senior Pastor for Highland United Church of Christ, he made improving health and eliminating health disparities in the African and African American communities an integral part of his mission.
3. Pastor Hardy was a founding member of the 11:45 Movement, a faith-based coalition to address public safety and gang violence through volunteering and maintaining a "sustained visible presence in our community".
4. In 2000, Dr. W.G. Hardy Jr. formed Highland Haven, a nonprofit organization that serves distressed communities in North/Northeast Portland with nine different social service programs including a 12-step substance abuse recovery program, a prison ministry and worldwide missions.
5. Pastor Hardy worked tirelessly to raise awareness, and de-stigmatize mental health services. He was on the board of the African American Mental Health Commission that was fundamental in establishing the Avel Gordly Center for Healing, which provides culturally-specific mental health services.
6. Pastor Hardy is a long-time partner of the Health Department in areas like HIV prevention, health equity and chronic disease prevention. Since 2009, he has participated in the ACHIEVE coalition and was instrumental in securing a multi-million dollar REACH grant to improve health for African Americans. He led a coalition of 35 multi-faith leaders to take action against rising rates of chronic disease and obesity, which impacted over 60,000 people. Pastor Hardy said "Faith without works is dead; therefore we as a community must act on our convictions...".

7. In 2016, Pastor Hardy received one of Multnomah County's Public Health Hero awards as part of the ACHIEVE coalition. In 2017, Pastor Hardy and Highland Haven received a Public Health Hero award recognizing the work of the organization's youth on issues surrounding tobacco and healthy eating. He was also nominated in 2015. He understood that the health choices people make are based on the choices they have; and he advocated for changing people's surroundings as a way to improve health.
8. As a national leader Dr. W.G. Hardy was featured in success stories published by the Centers for Disease Control and the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors. He was sought after as a national speaker and to be an inspiration to communities across the nation.
9. Pastor Hardy has inspired thousands of congregants, community members, faith leaders, youth and others. His words have carried hope for a better life for everyone and his example has shown us how actions can transcend difference and make a difference for our community.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims February 8, 2018 as Reverend Dr. W. G. Hardy Jr. day.

ADOPTED this ___ day of _____, 2018.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Deborah Kafoury, Chair

REVIEWED:
JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By:

Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

Submitted by: Health Department