



# MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(revised 03/25/11)

## Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 2/9/12  
Agenda Item #: R.5  
Est. Start Time: 10:30 am  
Date Submitted: 1/31/12

**Agenda Title: The Native American Community in Multnomah County: An Unsettling Profile**

*Note: If Ordinance, Resolution, Order or Proclamation, provide exact title. For all other submissions, provide a clearly written title sufficient to describe the action requested.*

**Requested Meeting Date:** Feb. 9, 2012 **Amount of Time Needed:** 30 minutes  
**Department:** Office of Diversity and Equity **Division:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Contact(s):** Lai-Lani Ovalles (Native American Youth & Family Center) and/or Shawn Postera  
**Phone:** 503.288.8177 **Ext.** 213 **ODE** 988-4347  
**Presenter Name(s) & Title(s):** Sherry Addis, Office Supervisor, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians; Frank Alby, President, Alaskan Brotherhood; Dr. Ann Curry-Stevens, Assistant Professor, Portland State University; Nichole Maher, Executive Director, NAYA

## General Information

### 1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

Listen to a summary of findings from the report "*The Native American Community in Multnomah County: An Unsettling Report*" and listen to recommendations on how to address and eliminate disparities that exists for the Native American community.

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

This report from the Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC) and Portland State University shows troubling disparities between Multnomah County's Native American population and whites in terms of housing, employment, education, health and other factors. This 118 page report is the most widespread study of our urban Native American community.

Among the findings in the report:

- Poverty rates among Native Americans are triple those of whites, and even higher among families. The report showed a poverty rate of 79.1 percent for single mothers raising young children.

- Income among Native Americans are typically half that of whites.
  - Native American unemployment in 2009 was 70 percent higher than whites.
  - More than half of Native American students do not graduate high school.
  - The rate of incarceration is almost double that of whites.
  - Twenty times more Native American children end up in foster care than white children.
- In addition, the report states that these problems are worse in Multnomah County than in the nation as a whole.

This is the second of seven proposed reports by the Coalition of Communities of Color. The first, which came out in 2010, was a broader portrait of racial disparity in Multnomah County.

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

This report illuminates the complexity of needs facing communities of color. We urge County Departments to begin implementing an equity-based funding allocation that seeks to ameliorate some of the challenges that exist in resourcing these communities.

This could include Poverty reduction strategies, funding community development in communities of color.

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

County works with the Coalition of Communities of Color to Develop a plan for the advancement of racial equity through the reduction of disparities in policies that reflect commitment.

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

This report is the result of a three year research partnership between the Native community, PSU's School of Social Work and the Coalition of Communities of Color, whose membership includes a diverse alliance of culturally specific organizations in Multnomah County.

The Coalition urges the State, County and City governments, to establish firm timelines with measureable outcomes to assess disparities annually.

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**Required Signature**

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**Elected Official or  
Department/  
Agency Director:**

**Date:** 1/31/12




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**Daryl Dixon ODE**