



MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(Revised: 01/11/16)

Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 2/25/16
Agenda Item #: R.5
Est. Start Time: 10:40 am approx.
Date Submitted: 2/18/16

Agenda Title: Resolution to Retain the Name of the Multnomah County Health Department Headquarters in Honor of Gladys McCoy

Requested

Meeting Date: February 25, 2016 Time Needed: 10 minutes

Department: Non-Departmental Division: District 2

Contact(s): MeeSeon Kwon

Phone: (503) 988-9451 Ext. I/O Address: 503/6

Presenters: Commissioner Loretta Smith

General Information

1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

Resolution to retain the name of the Multnomah County Health Department Headquarters in honor of Gladys McCoy Building.

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.

Multnomah County's Health Department Headquarters is currently situated in the Gladys McCoy Building (also known as: 1923 McCoy Building) at 423 S.W. Stark Street. The County acquired the building in 1988; the Board of County Commissioners dedicated its renaming, to the "Gladys McCoy Building, Multnomah County Human Service Center," by resolution, approved on April 29, 1993 (Resolution 93-134). The County is undergoing a design and planning process to relocate its services to a new location on Northwest Sixth Avenue, between Hoyt and Irving Streets, in Old Town/Chinatown.

Board approval of a resolution expressing intent to retain the naming of the Headquarters would reaffirm the County's commitment to recognizing the contributions made by, and the importance of retaining places named in honor of Oregon pioneers, namely former Multnomah County Chair and Commissioner Gladys McCoy.

Gladys McCoy was born on February 28, 1928, in Atlanta, Georgia, and she graduated with a bachelor's degree in sociobiology and a minor in economics from Talladega College in Alabama. In the early 1950s, she moved to Oregon and thereafter met and married William McCoy, who would become the first African American elected to the Oregon State Legislature.

In 1967, Gladys McCoy earned a master's degree in social work from Portland State University; she became a member of the Academy of Certified Social Workers in 1969. McCoy's social services work for Portland Head Start propelled her to run for public office; and in 1970, she was elected to the Portland School Board, where she served two four-year terms. In the early 1970s, she also taught sociology and social work courses at area schools, including Clark College, Pacific University, Portland Community College, and the International College of Cayman Islands in the British West Indies. Oregon Governor Robert W. Straub appointed her the State Ombudsman in 1975, which she served from 1976 through 1978.

In 1978, Gladys McCoy was elected to the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners; she was reelected in 1982 and resigned in 1984 to run for the Portland City Council. In 1986, McCoy was elected Multnomah County Chair. She was reelected Chair in 1990 and served until her death on April 11, 1993.

Among her considerable accomplishments, McCoy set up a social service program in the Columbia Villa housing project, where she had previously lived. Her efforts "also stabilized county funding, expanded and met county affirmative action goals, increased citizen participation in government, increased minority representation on county boards and commissioners, and standardized the county charitable contribution program." [Multnomah County biography: <https://multco.us/records/gladys-mccoy-biography>].

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 or
Department
Director:**

/s/ Loretta Smith

Date:

February 18, 2016