

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

PROCLAMATION NO. _____

**Proclaiming February 2015 as Black History Month in Multnomah County,
Oregon.**

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. Black History Month is observed throughout the United States to celebrate and recognize the vital role of African Americans in our history and culture. Though the first Negro History Week was celebrated in 1926, it wasn't until 1976 that Black History Month was celebrated during the full month of February.
- b. African Americans have made significant contributions to our community's economic, educational, political, artistic, literary, scientific and technological advancement, despite historical and current injustices.
- c. The African American press has been a driving force in sharing information from the time that the first black newspaper, Freedom's Journal, was established in 1827. Since then, black newspapers have been important sources of information for the community during important historical events such as the Great Migration and the Civil Rights Movement.
- d. Black churches have played a monumental role as a central location for organizing for social change, sharing information and preserving the heritage of the African American community. As a safe haven, churches also join with public and private partners to provide vital social services for all people in need of food, shelter, clothing and community.
- e. Multnomah County further recognizes the efforts of those organizations within the County striving to improve the quality of life for African Americans and joins with the country in honoring the rich heritage, extraordinary contributions, and ongoing accomplishments of African Americans. We all benefit from our community's racial and ethnic diversity.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

February 2015 as Black History Month in Multnomah County, Oregon, in recognition and celebration of the contributions of African Americans to our community.

ADOPTED this ____ day of February, 2015.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

Deborah Kafoury Chair

SUBMITTED BY: Commissioner Loretta Smith, District 2