

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

PROCLAMATION NO. 2023-029

Proclaiming May 1 through May 7, 2023 as Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Relatives Week of Awareness.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- A. Multnomah County rests on the homelands and villages of many Indigenous Tribal nations. We acknowledge the genocide, forced removal, and systemic erasure of Indigenous peoples through colonization and the on-going impacts of colonialism.
- B. The lasting impacts of colonization have created the circumstances the Native community is experiencing. We recognize the survivance, joy, beauty, and strength of Native communities who continue today through a rich culture, beautiful ceremony, the use of decolonizing practices, and the creation of intergenerational healing. Native people are still here today contributing positively to our local communities. The County recognizes the impacts of white supremacy and the opportunity to learn, grow, and restructure based on the teachings from these communities.
- C. It is critical to acknowledge the connection between colonialism and the use of colonial violence against individuals, communities and throughout systems.
- D. Violence against women, especially Indigenous women who are sitting at the intersections of multiple targeted identities including Disabled people, unhoused people, and people who have experienced neuro and environmental trauma, is one of many forms of colonial violence that continues to harm Indigenous communities - from children to elders and those in between, violence impacts our entire community.
- E. Indigenous women, girls, Two Spirit and Indige-Queer peoples, and relatives face the highest rates of life threatening, or life ending violence per capita out of any other race and are often unprotected by the American legal system due to jurisdiction challenges as tribes hold a unique and sovereign status.
- F. Indigenous women, girls, Two Spirit and Indige-Queer peoples, and relatives are often unaccounted for in colonial law enforcement data systems and there is no database specific to tracking this crisis except for a grass-roots database initiated and kept by the larger Native community.
- G. Indigenous women, girls, Two Spirit and Indige-Queer peoples and relatives are also often misidentified when coming into contact with law enforcement or other programs, resulting in a lack of cross-jurisdictional support services being offered to victims from potential law enforcement, Tribal and community services.

- H. Failing to adequately respond to this crisis through the use of data and coordination across jurisdictions is a continued form of genocide and erasure of Indigenous peoples in this country and action must be taken urgently to correct these systems.
- I. Recent Congressional action in 2020 strengthened the federal government's response to the missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and relatives crisis: Savannah's Act and the Not Invisible Act. These bills support improvement in reporting databases, communication between jurisdictions and law enforcement agencies, and increase intergovernmental coordination on approaches to address the crisis.
- J. Multnomah County recognizes and elevates the ongoing need to focus resources across the federal, state and local levels to address violence against Indigenous relatives, and stands in solidarity with other governmental jurisdictions, organizations, and Urban Native and Tribal communities in building awareness about this public health crisis.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

May 1 through May 7, 2023, as Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Relatives Week of Awareness in Multnomah County, Oregon.


ADOPTED this 4th day of May, 2023.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Jessica Vega Pederson, Chair

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

By 

Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

Submitted by: Jessica Vega Pederson, Multnomah County Chair