

## MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

### PROCLAMATION NO. 20

Proclaiming June 19<sup>th</sup> 2025 as Juneteenth in Multnomah County, Oregon.

#### **Multnomah County Finds:**

- A. June 19th, 1865 is a day that is nationally recognized as Juneteenth Day, commemorating the emancipation of enslaved Black people in the United States.
- B. Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Liberation Day, or Emancipation Day, marks the day when Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865, to enforce the end of slavery, two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued by President Abraham Lincoln.
- C. Black American communities have played and continue to play an essential role in shaping the history, politics, culture, and prosperity of Multnomah County, the state of Oregon, and the nation. From the early pioneers who arrived in the Pacific Northwest to the leaders of today, Black Americans have contributed to every aspect of society, including education, politics, the arts, business, and social justice. Despite this, Black Americans continue to face systemic racism, discrimination, and social injustices in various forms, including economic inequality, police brutality, mass incarceration, and unequal access to education and healthcare. Juneteenth serves as a reminder of the ongoing struggle for and denial of equity Black Americans endure and the need for continued efforts to address systemic and interpersonal racism, bias, and unfair treatment and the need to promote justice.
- D. As we gather to commemorate this significant occasion, let us remember the importance of honoring and remembering our ancestors and elders. It is crucial to recognize that we were enslaved longer than we have been free. The emancipation of enslaved Black people 160 years ago marked a pivotal moment in our history. Following this, there was a brief period of Reconstruction, where Black people were led to believe they would be treated equally and fairly. However, this promise was quickly broken with the introduction of Jim Crow laws, physical violence such as lynching, and the exception clause to allow slavery if used as punishment for a crime.
- E. We honor our ancestors and elders, not only by remembering their struggles and sacrifices, but by continuing our fight for justice. Their resilience and perseverance have laid the groundwork for the progress we see today, and we must continue this work. Anyone who believes in truth, justice, and equality would find reason to celebrate the ending of chattel slavery and honor our ancestors who lived, died, and survived the evil and peculiar institution of chattel slavery.
- F. Despite the adversities our ancestors and elders faced, we face, and the generations will face in the future, we must look at how far we have come and continue to find joy in being alive and being who we are, unapologetically.

- G. Multnomah County is committed to honoring and celebrating Juneteenth as a day of reflection, education, and community empowerment.

**Multnomah County Proclaims:**

1. June 19, 2025, and each year thereafter, as Juneteenth Day in Multnomah County, Oregon, and encourages all residents to participate in Juneteenth events, spend money at Black-owned businesses, reflect on the significance of this historic day, and to continue working towards racial equity and justice.
2. Multnomah County reaffirms its commitment to eradicating racism and anti-Blackness in our institutions and departments by promoting racial equity, diversity, and inclusion and to working towards a more just and equitable society for all employees.

**ADOPTED this 4th day of June, 2025.**

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

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

**SPONSORED BY: Commissioner Shannon Singleton, District 2 and Commissioner Vince Jones-Dixon, District 4.**