

## MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

### PROCLAMATION NO. 32

Proclaiming September 3, 2025 as Julie Sullivan-Springhetti Day in Multnomah County, Oregon.

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

- A. According to data gathered daily by the employees of Multnomah County, especially those in the Central Communications Office but also leaders and/or communicators across every department, we find that Julie Sullivan-Springhetti is a person of many and diverse talents, most especially in the varied work of writing, editing, strategically communicating, fielding press inquiries, releasing public records, passing along good and bad news, running headlong into the fires of crisis, championing the work of others, and providing a living model of grace under pressure.
- B. Some of Julie's best work happens during the daily response to press inquiries, which come in 365 days of the year – onto each of Julie's phones and email accounts, even when the press office is closed – and require careful precision, quick wits and connection with subject-matter experts from every corner of Multnomah County. This is a daily response that also must be delivered back accurately, strategically and on-deadline.
- C. Some of Julie's best work happens when Multnomah County proactively communicates the good (and bad and varied) news about milestones in programs, decisions made by our Board of County Commissioners, the beginnings and endings of things. She has personally penned hundreds of press releases, produced dozens of press conferences and avails, and reviewed what must be a million internal and external communications.
- D. Some of Julie's best work happens when we're gearing up for — or find ourselves deep inside of — an emergency. Whether it's a tire fire, a forest fire, the hottest days we've ever seen, a devastating ice storm or a global pandemic, Julie's leadership in crisis literally saves lives. She is always on call to provide topline messages and manage and direct communications across every channel to amplify what the community most needs to hear. And sometimes she even rides along with life-saving good samaritans to ask questions and develop new protocols to augment already groundbreaking communications based on continual learning and best practices.
- E. Some of Julie's best work happens when she's advising leaders across Multnomah County on what to say and how to say it. There are very few things communicated internally or externally at Multnomah County that Julie Sullivan-Springhetti hasn't reviewed, offered advice about or provided a model for in some previous communication. Her omnipresence, heart, wisdom, and mastery of tone, are inspiring and among the many things that make her superhuman.
- F. Some of Julie's best work happens when she's mentoring other communicators (and many others) within Multnomah County and across our region. We challenge anyone to produce a better mentor than Julie Sullivan-Springhetti.

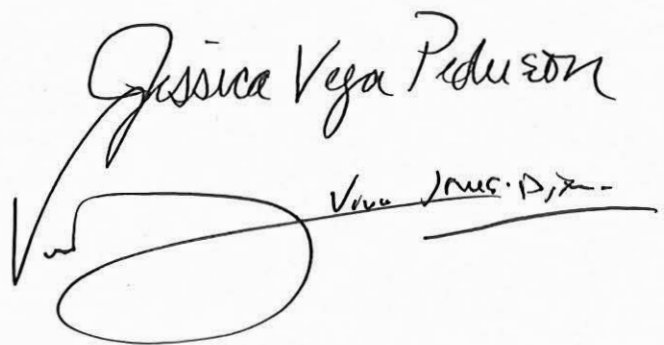
- G. Some of Julie's best work happens during the hardest moments Multnomah County faces or has faced. For reference, see especially: 2020 through Sept. 3, 2025. But Julie also shines every day when our community is struggling and needs to know what to do next.
- H. Some of Julie's best work happens when she's a welcome ear (and heart) to someone who needs a friend — a journalist, a colleague, a constituent, a neighbor in our boardroom, an intern looking for good ideas, a leader looking for advice. Julie asks tough and real questions and she listens — somehow making time stop while you're talking to her even if there are 17 fires burning on her desktop and phone.
- I. All of Julie's best work happens when she's doing what feels like the job of many people — and being great at a dozen challenging things at once. When you look up "seasoned professional" in the dictionary, there is a picture of her right there on that page (or ought to be).
- J. In conclusion, Julie Sullivan-Springhetti is truly an extraordinary human being and someone who's shared their best work with Multnomah County. A Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist who became our colleague in 2011 and who will be profoundly missed when she retires later this month. Our community is far better educated, aware, and engaged than prior to her tenure. We've been lucky to have her steady guidance for 14 years. We are very glad her next chapter will be focused on family, hiking, new ideas, friendship and enjoying the good life.

**Multnomah County Proclaims:**

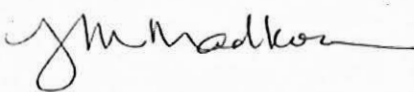
September 3, 2025 as Julie Sullivan-Springhetti Day in Multnomah County, Oregon.

**SIGNED this 3rd day of September, 2025.**

  
Julie Brum Edwards

  
Jessica Vega Pederson  
Vice Chair

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

By:   
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Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

**SUBMITTED BY:** Chair Jessica Vega Pederson