

MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

PROCLAMATION NO. 46

Proclaiming February as Pioneer Black First Responders Month in Multnomah County, Oregon.

Multnomah County Finds:

- A. The month of February is nationally recognized as Black History and Futures Month, a time to honor, reflect upon, and celebrate the history, culture, resilience, and contributions of Black Americans whose leadership and perseverance have helped shape a more just and equitable society.
- B. Multnomah County recognizes that even when Black people were excluded from serving in an official capacity, or first responders did not respond to crimes or cries for help within Black communities, Black community members stood up to keep their communities safe.
- C. Black trailblazers in community safety professions have historically faced systemic racism, exclusion, and inequitable access to employment opportunities, yet continued to serve with courage and excellence in protecting and strengthening their communities.
- D. Multnomah County recognizes the vital contributions of members of the Black diaspora who have served and continue to serve as firefighters, paramedics, emergency medical professionals, law enforcement officers, neighborhood patrols, and members of the military, ensuring public safety and community well-being.
- E. Multnomah County honors local trailblazers whose leadership created pathways for future generations, including Dr. Lee P. Brown, who served as the first Black Sheriff of Multnomah County in 1975, marking a historic milestone in local government and public service.
- F. Multnomah County recognizes Charles Moose, the first African American to hold the position (1993-1999), known for community policing, anti-gang work, and bringing emerging diversity and equity practices to the Portland Police Bureau
- G. The County further recognizes Matthew Dishman Jr., the first African American Deputy Sheriff in Multnomah County, whose legacy of service and community leadership lives on through the Matt Dishman Community Center, operated by Portland Parks & Recreation.
- H. Multnomah County acknowledges the pioneering service of Black firefighters, including William Carr, Augustus "Gus" Waterford.
- I. Multnomah County recognizes Sara Boone, who became the first Black woman firefighter and later the first Black Fire Chief in 2019, exemplifying leadership, perseverance, and commitment to equity in public safety.

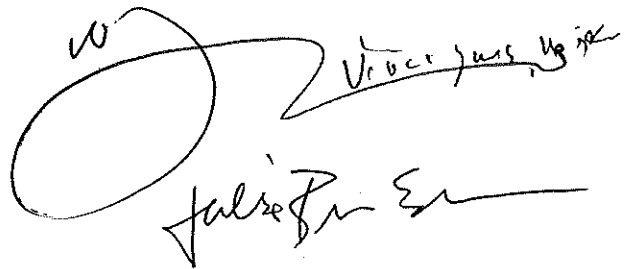
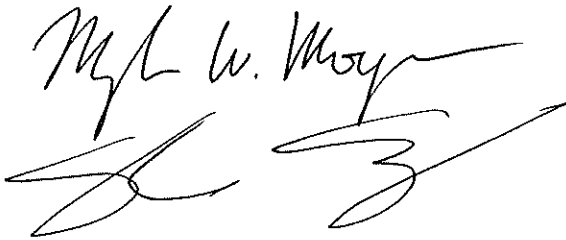
- J. Multnomah County acknowledges Jeff Hairston, Fire Chief of the City of Gresham, who became the City of Gresham's first Black firefighter in 2006, and who later made history as the first Black male Fire Chief in Multnomah County and the State of Oregon in 2026.
- K. Multnomah County expresses gratitude to all people of color who currently serve within the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, Emergency Medical Services, Fire Services, and partner agencies, whose work contributes to healthier, safer, and more resilient communities.
- L. Multnomah County remains committed to advancing equity, racial justice, community safety, and cross-sector partnerships, while working alongside community-based organizations to eliminate disparities and improve outcomes for historically marginalized populations.

Multnomah County Proclaims:

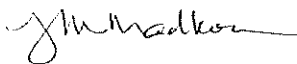
The month of February as Pioneer Black First Responders Month in Multnomah County, and encourages all residents to reflect upon and honor the legacy, sacrifices, and ongoing leadership of Black first responders who have served with distinction.

Furthermore, Multnomah County reaffirms its commitment to supporting inclusive workforce development, historical recognition, and community-centered public safety systems that uplift future generations.

SIGNED this 4th day of February, 2026.



REVIEWED:
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FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By: 

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SPONSORED BY:

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