

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

PROCLAMATION NO. 2022-039

Proclaiming May 1 through May 7, 2022 as Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Relatives Week of Awareness.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- A. Multnomah County recognizes that Multnomah County rests on the homelands and villages of the Indigenous Tribal nations. We acknowledge the genocide, forced removal, and systemic erasure of Indigenous peoples.
- B. Multnomah County believes it is critical to acknowledge the connection between colonialism and the use of colonial violence.
- C. Violence against women is one of many forms of colonial violence that continues to harm Indigenous communities today and is an issue that impacts our entire community.
- D. Native American women, girls and two spirit peoples 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 as tribes hold a unique, sovereign status.
- E. Indigenous women, girls and other relatives are often unaccounted for in colonial law enforcement data systems and there is no database specific to tracking this crisis.
- F. Indigenous women, girls and other 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.
- G. 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.
- H. Multnomah County was encouraged to see two critical acts passed by Congress in 2020 to strengthen 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 will support improvement in reporting databases, communication between jurisdictions and law enforcement agencies, and increased intergovernmental coordination on approaches to address the crisis.

- I. However, Multnomah County recognizes 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 crisis.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

May 1 through May 7, 2022 as Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Relatives Week of Awareness in Multnomah County, Oregon.


ADOPTED this 5th day of May, 2022.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Deborah Kafoury, Chair

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

By 

Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney