

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of Affirming Columbia
County's Commitment to Addressing
Systemic Racism, and Proclaiming June
19 as Juneteenth

RESOLUTION NO. 66-2020

WHEREAS, through Resolution No. 15-2018, Columbia County adopted a Vision that states in part, "We embrace diversity, equity and inclusion. We will cultivate a dependable and responsible system that supports our community and provides access to the services our residents need and desire"; and

WHEREAS, Columbia County also adopted as one of its Core Values:

"Equity – A dynamic community is one in which all residents have the ability to thrive. Therefore, we strive to identify and eliminate barriers that might prevent full participation. We will operate under the principles of social justice in which all people have equal opportunity, where they are able to access community resources, and where they are treated equitably in order to succeed."; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners acknowledges that racial inequities exist today in our communities as a result of systemic racism, and among Black people, systemic racism can be a matter of life and death; and

WHEREAS, systemic racism is a fluid term that we understand to mean the policies and practices entrenched in established institutions that result in exclusion, discriminatory treatment, hostile acts, inequitable policies and disadvantage of people of color; and

WHEREAS, data confirms that Black people receive disparate treatment in our social institutions – including our health, criminal justice, educational and economic institutions – resulting in serious consequences for Black people; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners is committed to upholding Columbia County's vision and values to address the adverse impacts of systemic racism on the wellbeing and quality of life of the people of Columbia County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners is committed to establishing concrete measures to uphold Columbia County's vision and values to address the adverse impacts of racism; and

WHEREAS, following recent incidences of racism against Black people in the United States and in Oregon, on June 18, 2020, Oregon Governor Kate Brown

announced plans to introduce legislation to make June 19 a state holiday to commemorate Juneteenth; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth recognizes June 19 as a day of commemoration and celebration of the end of slavery in the United States when Major General Gordon Granger announced the end of slavery to the people of Texas, the last State to hear of the end of slavery, two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, the Columbia County Board of Commissioners desires to foster a welcoming, inclusive, equitable, respectful and safe environment for people of color in the community; and

WHEREAS, the Columbia County Board of Commissioners desires to proclaim June 19 as Juneteenth in Columbia County to commemorate and celebrate the end of slavery and Major General Gordon Granger's announcement of the emancipation of people held as slaves; and

WHEREAS, the Columbia County Board of Commissioners desire to learn about and address any impacts that systemic racism has in Columbia County;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED as follows:

1. Columbia County affirms its commitment to address systemic racism and its impacts on Black people and other people of color in the community.
2. Columbia County denounces white supremacy, racism, violence and racial inequity against people of color.
3. Columbia County will work with community members, law enforcement and employees to identify and address systemic racism in Columbia County and will actively seek feedback regarding County policy and its impact on people of color in Columbia County.
4. Columbia County will listen, learn and work to foster a welcoming, inclusive, equitable, respectful and safe environment for people of color in the community.
5. Columbia County will continue to regularly review its discrimination policies and implementation thereof to ensure policies are successfully and effectively implemented.
6. Columbia County will continue to provide employee training aimed at awareness of bias.

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7. The Columbia County Board of Commissioners declares the day of June 19 as Juneteenth in Columbia County and encourages all County residents to commemorate and celebrate this day.

DATED this 8 day of July, 2020.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: Alex Tardif
Alex Tardif, Chair

By: Margaret Magruder
Margaret Magruder, Commissioner

By: Henry Heimuller
Henry Heimuller, Commissioner

Approved as to form:

By: [Signature]
Office of County Counsel