

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

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

Resolution to Retain the Name of the Multnomah County Health Department Headquarters in Honor of Gladys McCoy.

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:**

- a. Multnomah County is undergoing the much-needed and anticipated design and planning process to relocate its vital health department headquarters from the Gladys McCoy Building (423 S.W. Stark Street) to Northwest Sixth Avenue, between Hoyt and Irving Streets, in Old Town/Chinatown.
- b. Oregon civil rights trailblazer Gladys McCoy (b. February 28, 1928; d. April 11, 1993) was a distinguished public servant whose tenure included serving as the first African American member of the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners and Portland School Board.
- c. McCoy earned a master's degree in social work from Portland State University in 1967 and became a member of the Academy of Certified Social Workers the following year. Her social services work for Portland Head Start propelled her to run for public office; and in 1970, she was elected to the Portland School Board, where she served two four-year terms.
- d. In 1978, Gladys McCoy was elected to the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners; she was reelected in 1982 and resigned in 1984 to run for the Portland City Council. In 1986, McCoy was elected Multnomah County Chair. She was reelected Chair in 1990 and served until her death on April 11, 1993.
- e. Gladys McCoy committed to defending the rights of families and children and helping ensure an open, inclusive government. Among her considerable accomplishments, McCoy set up a social service program in the Columbia Villa housing project and relentlessly worked to stabilize county funding, expand and meet county affirmative action goals, increase citizen participation in government, increase minority representation on county boards and commissioners, and standardize the county charitable contribution program.
- f. February is recognized every year, nationally and locally, as Black History Month in remembrance and recognition of the significant role of African Americans in our history and culture. In keeping with this tradition, Gladys McCoy is among countless individuals who were driven to ensure the defense of civil rights, and who worked to improve lives through considerable public service.

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:**

To retain the name of the Multnomah Health Department Headquarters after former Multnomah County Chair and Commissioner Gladys McCoy.

**ADOPTED this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.**

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

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Deborah Kafoury, Chair

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

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

**SUBMITTED BY:**  
Commissioner Loretta Smith