

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of the Adoption of)
Citizen Involvement as a Top)
Priority of the County and Citizen)
Involvement Principles as a Guide)
to all County Departments and)
Divisions.)

RESOLUTION NO. 95-245

WHEREAS, there has been a general erosion of the mutual trust and respect between citizens and their governments which impacts Multnomah County; and,

WHEREAS, many citizens continue to turn away from government processes despite increasing opportunity for involvement in Multnomah County's decision-making activities; and,

WHEREAS, some citizens believe they have a limited voice in helping to shape responses to the demanding issues before society; and many citizens no longer view the government process as a reasoning together in public debate; and,

WHEREAS, citizens do participate in public life when conditions are right; and,

WHEREAS, citizens are not apathetic when there is a possibility to bring about constructive change; and will then engage in government process; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to improve citizens' connections to their governments and to include citizens in governmental processes; and,

WHEREAS, it will take time and long-term effort to improve citizen involvement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Multnomah County believes that effective citizen involvement is essential to good government, that elected officials, staff and citizens all play important roles in governing the county, and that cooperation between the county government and citizens results in the best policy decisions; and,

THEREFORE, that Multnomah County declares Citizen Involvement to be a top priority of the County and that to carry out this commitment, all the departments and divisions will adhere to the following set of Citizen Involvement Principles to guide relations with citizens:

**MULTNOMAH COUNTY
CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT PRINCIPLES**

1. Citizen involvement is essential to the health of our county.
2. Active relationships with neighborhoods, community groups and other citizen participation organizations promote ongoing dialogue with citizens.

3. Understandable County communications and processes respect and encourage citizen participation.
4. Outreach efforts reflect the county's rich diversity.
5. Citizens should be involved early in planning, projects and policy development.
6. The County and its departments and divisions should respond in a timely manner to citizen input and should respect all perspectives and insights.
7. Coordinated County outreach and involvement activities make the best use of citizens' time and efforts.
8. Evaluation and report on the effectiveness of County outreach efforts achieves the quality of County/citizen cooperation critical to good government.
9. Ongoing education of citizens in neighborhoods, community groups, County officials and staff in community organizing, networking and cooperation is promoted; and

THEREFORE, that Multnomah County reaffirms its commitment to promote and sustain a responsive citizen involvement environment, which depends upon:

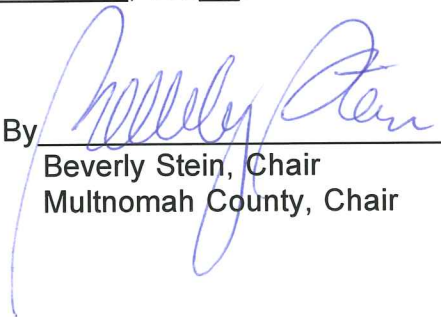
- * Mutual respect of all parties;
- * Informed and involved citizens;
- * County officials and staff who honor their role to facilitate and respond to citizen advice; and,

THEREFORE, that the Citizen Involvement Committee (CIC) of Multnomah County is recognized as the County's lead agency in helping to develop and facilitate citizen involvement processes; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County will both advance and cooperate with others on citizen involvement improvements, innovations, and/or changes which help citizens to join in creating the political environment in which they have a real voice in setting the course of their communities.

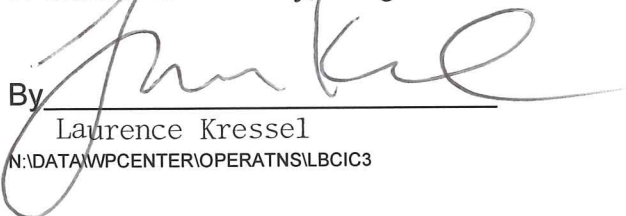
DATED this 30th day of November, 1995.



By 
 Beverly Stein, Chair
 Multnomah County, Chair

REVIEWED:

Laurence Kressel, County Counsel
 of Multnomah County, Oregon

By 
 Laurence Kressel
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