

CITY COUNCIL  
AGENDA ITEM  
STAFF SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

Preparation of Staff Supplemental Report

Staff reports are to be consistent with the following example. If one of the items is not applicable, do not leave it out, simply list as N/A



TO Commissioner Dan Saltzman

FROM Gwen Schnurman

DATE April 20, 1999

REQUESTED PLACEMENT DATE April 28, 1999

RE Day of Acknowledgment Resolution  
Descriptive title using appropriate dates and wording such as resolution, ordinance, etc

I RECOMMENDATION/ACTION REQUESTED

Recommend unanimous passage of the Resolution by the City Council

II BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The Day of Acknowledgment recognizes the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Territorial Exclusion Act which excluded African Americans from the Oregon Territory. The act is symbolic of the many laws and ordinances that have excluded people on the basis of race, such as the laws that assessed taxes on the basis of race, prohibited ownership of land by Asians, forbade interracial marriage, and removed people of Japanese heritage from the West Coast and placed them in internment camps.

The Oregon State Legislature and the Governor have declared April 22 as the Day of Acknowledgment as a means of focusing attention on the history of discrimination but also on the positive recognition of people of all races who fought the exclusionary laws.

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III FINANCIAL IMPACT  
None

IV LEGAL ISSUES  
None

V CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES  
None

VI LINK TO CURRENT CITY POLICIES

This resolution is consistent with current City of Portland policies of equal opportunity and affirmative action, and creating an inclusionary environment for all the City's residents

VII CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Oregon Uniting is a coalition of individuals and organizations who are working to advance the unfinished agenda of racial justice. Oregon Uniting has begun several projects, including the Day of Acknowledgment and Dialogues on Racial Reconciliation.

In November, 1997, a conference was held at Portland State University with the theme "An Honest Conversation on Race, Reconciliation and Responsibility." The conference, attended by more than 200 people, was initiated by Moral Re-Armament in association with PSU, the Urban League of Portland, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, the Institute for Judaic Studies and the City of Portland Office of Neighborhood Associations. Other groups associated with Oregon Uniting are the Metropolitan Human Rights Center, Oregon Law Center, Hope in the Cities, Oregon Commissions on Black Affairs, Women's Affairs, Asian Affairs, Hispanic Affairs, Oregon Disabilities Commission, Japanese American Citizen's League, Portland Observer, Church of Scientology and the First Unitarian Church.

VIII OTHER GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION

Multnomah County will pass the Resolution on April 29, The City of Salem has passed the Resolution, and it will be taken by local residents to every city and county in Oregon for passage.

**RESOLUTION No.**

Endorse and support the Day of Acknowledgment Resolution and the Oregon Uniting project (Resolution)

WHEREAS: Our history as Oregonians has been marred by racial discrimination, exclusion, bigotry and great injustice toward people of color, including Native Americans, African Americans, Latinos, Chinese Americans, Japanese Americans and Pacific Islanders, and

WHEREAS Such mistreatment based on race was allowed and enforced through our laws and legal system, and

WHEREAS An example of such a law was an act passed by the Oregon Territorial Assembly in 1849 (and later repealed) which expressly excluded African Americans from the Territory, and

WHEREAS The lingering effects of this history combined with present day discrimination continues to cause harm and pain to people of color and limits the quality and dignity of all of our lives, and

WHEREAS People of all races have worked to improve the racial climate and to remove the effects of past and present exclusion and discrimination, and

WHEREAS We believe that an honest acknowledgment of our racial history and open dialogue can lead to racial healing and reconciliation and free us to move constructively into a better future for all if we take personal responsibility for change by examining and changing our personal attitudes which perpetuate structural, economic and racial discrimination,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**

That the City of Portland supports the Oregon Legislature, the Governor, the Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court, other public officials, community leaders and other Oregonians in designating a Day of Acknowledgment to recognize Oregon's discriminatory history, to condemn the attitudes that led to that discrimination, and to acknowledge people of all races and ethnic backgrounds who have worked for positive change

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**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** That Oregon Uniting's "Day of Acknowledgment, Year of Progress and Future of Equality" project is worthy of support by the City of Portland

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** That residents of the City of Portland should engage in honest dialogue on race as a means of racial healing and reconciliation

Adopted by the Council

**APR 28 1999**

**GARY BLACKMER**

Auditor of the City of Portland

By

*Britta Olson*

Deputy

Prepared by Steve Freedman, MHRC  
April 20, 1999

**RESOLUTION NO.**

**35786**

Title

Endorse and support the Day of Acknowledgment Resolution and support the Oregon Uniting project (Resolution)

INTRODUCED BY	DATE FILED <b>APR 23 1999</b>
Commissioner Dan Saltzman	Gary Blackmer Auditor of the City of Portland
NOTED BY COMMISSIONER	By <u>Gary Kinsler</u> Deputy  For Meeting of _____  <b>ACTION TAKEN</b>
Affairs <i>(Signature)</i>	
Finance and Administration	
Safety	
Utilities	
Works	
BUREAU APPROVAL	
Bureau Office of Neighborhood Involvement	
Prepared by Steve Freedman, MHRC Date April 20, 1999	
Budget Impact Review Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Not Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Bureau Head Celia Heron <i>(Signature)</i>	

AGENDA	FOUR-FIFTHS AGENDA	COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS	
		YEAS	NAYS
Consent      Regular <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Francesconi	Francesconi	✓
NOTED BY	Hales	Hales	✓
City Attorney	Saltzman	Saltzman	✓
City Auditor	Sten	Sten	✓
City Engineer	Katz	Katz	✓