

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER AND RESOLUTION
NO: 21-02-02-04

In the Matter of Acknowledging the
Destruction of Lane County's First Black
Neighborhood and Resolving to Honor the
History of the Ferry Street Village

WHEREAS, in the 1940s, Lane County's first Black neighborhood took root on a river bank north of the city; and

WHEREAS, in 1948, Black families living in the first Black neighborhood (also called the Ferry Street Village or the Across the River community), Lane County issued notices to vacate the property within six months, for the construction of a new Ferry Street Bridge; and

WHEREAS, in 1949, at the direction of Lane County government, a bulldozer entered the Across the River community and smashed homes and a chapel that had been established there; and

WHEREAS, although many of the dozens of residents were prepared, the bulldozing continued beyond the borders that had been outlined in the notices, flattening homes and leaving many shocked and newly homeless people holding whatever they had managed to rescue in a few minutes; and

WHEREAS, Black people were not welcome in most of Eugene's established neighborhoods, those who chose to stay were forced to live outside of town where there was often no water, electric, or sanitary services; and

WHEREAS, Lane County government has a responsibility to both acknowledge its role in perpetuating injustice and adopt programs, policies, and funding to address inequities; and

WHEREAS, Lane County government has a responsibility to adopt programs, policies, and funding to address inequities.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners of Lane County **ORDERS and RESOLVES** as follows:

1. The Lane County Board of County Commissioners acknowledges the racist action taken by our predecessors in issuing the destruction of Lane County's first Black Community and apologizes for the extreme economic, mental and physical harm caused to Black families who were displaced from their homes without suitable alternatives for housing; and
2. The Lane County Board of County Commissioners recognizes that public works projects have historically disproportionately impacted communities of color; and

3. The Lane County Board of County Commissioners commits to evaluating Racial and Environmental Justice on future Public Works projects in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and
4. The Lane County Board of County Commissioners requests that the Public Works Department work with the City of Eugene to memorialize Lane County's first Black Community and recognize the injustice inflicted by Lane County to begin a process of reconciliation with our past and to actively acknowledge and address the remnants of Lane County's historical legacy.

ADOPTED this 2nd day of February, 2021.



Joe Berney, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners