

REVENUE: No revenue impact  
FISCAL: No fiscal impact  
SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO:

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Action:

Vote:

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc.:

Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/13

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Commends and honors Clara Peoples for her cultural and humanitarian contributions to her community and Oregon.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

**BACKGROUND:**

Known as “The Mother of Juneteenth” in Oregon, Clara Peoples is recognized as starting Portland’s Juneteenth celebration in 1945, after making an announcement over the loudspeaker in the Kaiser shipyards. In 1972, she helped organize a Juneteenth celebration that has come to include parade, picnic, and jazz festival and heritage concert. Juneteenth celebrates when Union Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger arrived with troops in Galveston, Texas and read a proclamation declaring that all slaves were free. His announcement came 2 1/2 years after President Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation, where up until June 19, 1865, the practice of slavery continued. Therefore, June 19 that is treated as an Independence Day.

A long-time resident of northeast Portland, she was acutely aware of the problem of hunger amongst her neighbors. She organized second harvests at local farms, finding and distributing surplus food from local farmers and delivering food to neighbors who were housebound or without transportation. In 1969, she transformed her home-based food bank into the Community Care Association, a nonprofit that continues to provide food and clothing to low-income individuals today.