

**City of East Lansing, Michigan**

**RESOLUTION TO PAY TRIBUTE TO DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.' LEGACY OF NONVIOLENT SOCIAL CHANGE, PRINCIPLED LEADERSHIP AND PUBLIC SERVICE**

**January 11, 2022**

**WHEREAS Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. dedicated his life to ensuring the Nation's fundamental principles of liberty and justice for all citizens;**

**WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. led this nation in a nonviolent civil rights movement during the 1950's and 1960's beginning with the Montgomery Bus Boycott to obtain social, political and economic equality for Black-Americans and all oppressed peoples; and,**

**WHEREAS Dr. King earned worldwide recognition as a spokesperson for equality; being the voice of a movement that spanned the two decades and sparked nonviolent freedom protest around the world**

**WHEREAS Dr. King preached a doctrine of nonviolence to combat racism, segregation, discrimination, militarization and economic injustice, and believed that each person has the moral capacity to serve and care for their fellow humankind.**

**WHEREAS Dr. King powerful message awakened the conscience and consciousness of the Nation and inspired people of all races and faiths to help build the Beloved Community—a community of justice, at peace with itself;**

**WHEREAS Dr. King was born on January 15, 1929, and attended segregated public schools in Georgia;**

**WHEREAS Dr. King began attending Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia at the age of 15, and received a B.A. degree in 1948 from Morehouse College, following in the footsteps of both his father and grandfather;**

**WHEREAS Dr. King received his B.D. in 1951 from Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania and his Ph.D. in theology in 1955 from Boston University;**

**WHEREAS while studying in Boston, Dr. King met Coretta Scott, a civil rights activist, the couple married on June 18, 1953, and had 2 sons and 2 daughters;**

**WHEREAS, in 1954, Dr. King accepted the call of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, and was pastor there until November 1959, when he resigned to move back to Atlanta to lead the Southern Christian Leadership Conference;**

**WHEREAS from 1960 until his death in 1968, Dr. King pastored the Ebenezer Baptist Church, along with his father;**

**WHEREAS between 1957 and 1968, Dr. King traveled over 6,000,000 miles, made over 2,500 speeches and sermons, was arrested over 40 times, wrote 5 books and numerous articles, supporting efforts around the Nation to end injustice and bring about social change and desegregation;**

**WHEREAS Dr. King led the Montgomery bus boycott for 381 days to protest the arrest of Mrs. Rosa Parks and the segregation of the bus system of Montgomery, Alabama, in the first great nonviolent civil rights demonstration of contemporary times in the United States;**

**WHEREAS during the Montgomery bus boycott, Dr. King was arrested, and his home was bombed, and from here composed his famous letter from a Montgomery jail that stirred the conscience of America and brought national recognition to the plight of Black Americans cause of social justice.**

**WHEREAS, on November 13, 1956, the Supreme Court of the United States declared the laws requiring segregation in Montgomery's bus system to be unconstitutional, leading to the end of the bus boycott on December 21, 1956;**

**WHEREAS Dr. King led the March on Washington, D.C. on August 28, 1963, the largest nonviolent protest of the civil rights movement;**

**WHEREAS during that march, Dr. King delivered his famous I Have A Dream speech from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and before a crowd of over 200,000 people, I Have A Dream is one of the iconic and memorable orations in United States history;**

**WHEREAS Dr. King led the Black community and the nation through mourning when members of the Ku Klux Klan bombed the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church in Birmingham Alabama that killed four little girls preparing for Sunday worship service.**

**WHEREAS Dr. King was a champion of nonviolence, fervently advocating nonviolent resistance as the strategy to end segregation and racial discrimination in the United States;**

**WHEREAS Dr. King was awarded the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize in recognition for his efforts, and, at the age of 35, was the youngest man to receive the Nobel Peace Prize;**

**WHEREAS Dr. King as the principle leader, spokesman and strategist for the civil rights movement was instrumental in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965;**

**WHEREAS on the evening of April 4, 1968, Dr. King was assassinated while standing on the balcony of his motel room in Memphis, Tennessee, where he was to lead sanitation workers in protest against low wages and intolerable working conditions;**

**WHEREAS in 1968 Representative John Conyers of Michigan first introduced legislation to establish a national holiday honoring Dr. King; he would champion this effort for over a decade and**

**WHEREAS Coretta Scott King led a massive campaign to establish Dr. King's birthday as a national holiday; and in 1983 Congress passed H.R.3706 with a veto proof majority in both houses and President Ronald Reagan signed legislation establishing Martin Luther King, Jr. Day;**

**WHEREAS the City of East Lansing has celebrated the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday since 1982, one year in advance of federal legislation**

**WHEREAS in 2020 the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day will be celebrated in all 50 states in more than 100 countries throughout the world**

**WHEREAS, in 2022the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commission of Mid-Michigan has adopted the theme of "In the long run, justice finally must spring from a new moral climate." words written by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to President Eisenhower requesting federal assistance with school integration in Little Rock Arkansas.**

**WHEREAS the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commission of mid-Michigan will welcome four members of the Little Rock Nine as special guest of the Annual King Day of celebration Dr. Carlotta Lanier, Ms. Minnie Jean Brown Trickey, Mr. Ernest Green and Mr. Terrance Roberts**

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of East Lansing encourages citizens to participate in the Commemoration being held on Monday, January 17, 2022, broadcast on WILX.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the City council of the city of East Lansing is committed to the ideals of building the beloved community and will conduct policy in accordance with these values.**

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**Ron Bacon  
Mayor**

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**City Clerk**