

DURHAM BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Resolution

**CELEBRATING & HONORING
THE LIFE & SERVICE OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

WHEREAS, a champion of nonviolence and justice, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. devoted his life to strengthening the content of American character and fought unrelentingly for the civil rights of all Americans and taught us that courage displaces fear, love transforms hate, acceptance dissipates prejudice and mutual regard cancels enmity; and

WHEREAS, in the face of hatred and violence, Dr. King preached a doctrine of nonviolence and civil disobedience to combat segregation, discrimination, and racial injustice, and believed that people have the moral capacity to care for other people; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King was one of the leaders of the successful 381 day Montgomery bus boycott in 1955 to protest the arrest of Rosa Parks and the segregation of the bus system; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King helped found and served as the first president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in 1957 to coordinate and support nonviolent direct action as a method of desegregating bus systems across the South; and

WHEREAS, between 1960 and 1964, Dr. King made addresses in Durham at White Rock Baptist Church, the Durham Business & Professional Chain, Hillside High School, the Southern Political Science Association at the Jack Tar Hotel, North Carolina College (now North Carolina Central University) and Duke University urging civil disobedience and nonviolent protests to end racial segregation and discrimination; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King traveled more than 6,000,000 miles, spoke more than 2,500 times, and wrote 5 books and numerous articles supporting efforts around the country to end injustice and bring about social change and desegregation between 1957 and 1968; and

WHEREAS, on August 28, 1963, Dr. King led the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, the largest rally of the civil rights movement, during which, from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and before a crowd of more than 200,000 people, Dr. King delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech in which he called for an end to racism and advocated for the civil and economic rights of African Americans; and

WHEREAS, the March on Washington was instrumental in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religious sex or national origin and prohibited unequal application of voter registration requirements and racial segregation in schools, employment and public accommodations; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King helped to organize the monumentally inspiring Selma to Montgomery marches in 1965 to advocate for passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to guarantee African American citizens the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King was supporting the garbage workers in Memphis, Tennessee, and planning the Poor People's Campaign to promote economic justice, when he was assassinated in Memphis on April 4, 1968; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we the Durham Board of County Commissioners do hereby resolve to recognize and honor the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his commitment to improve the human condition of all people through adoption of a racial equity framework for governmental decision-making, access to quality education, affordable housing, equal opportunity, shared prosperity, living wage employment, safe and humane labor conditions for all employees and quality healthcare.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Durham Board of County Commissioners call on the residents of Durham County to join us in reflecting on and advancing Dr. King's life and fulfilling his dream.

This the 11th day of January, 2021.

Brenda A. Howerton, Chair

Wendy Jacobs, Vice-Chair

Nida Allam

Nimasheena Burns

Heidi Carter

