

DURHAM BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Resolution

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

- WHEREAS,** A champion of justice, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. devoted his life to strengthening the content of the American character and fought unrelentingly for the civil rights of all Americans and taught us through non-violence that courage displaces fear, love transforms hate, acceptance dissipates prejudice and mutual regard cancels enmity; and
- WHEREAS,** Dr. King helped to organize efforts, plan events, and lead marches to advance the rights of African Americans to vote, for desegregation, for recognition and respect for labor rights, and to ensure other basic civil rights; and
- WHEREAS,** Dr. King was one of the leaders of the successful Montgomery bus boycott in 1955 and 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, Jack Tar Hotel to the Southern Political Science Association, 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 helped organize the 1963 nonviolent protests in Birmingham, Alabama, that drew national attention to the struggle for civil rights and to the hateful and brutal responses of the local law enforcement; and helped organize the March on Washington during which he delivered his eloquent and moving "I Have a Dream" speech; 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 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 in 1968.

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 a free and just world;

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 14th day of January, 2019.

Wendy Jacobs, Chair

James Hill, Jr., Vice-Chair

Heidi Carter

Brenda A. Howerton

Ellen Reckhow

