

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 2021

RECOGNIZING January 18, 2021, as Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in the City of Cincinnati, and asking all residents to reflect upon the significance of this extraordinary man's life, and how we may collectively continue to honor his legacy.

WHEREAS, the late Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a leader of great courage and skill, who became known as a leader of the American civil rights movement to enfranchise Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) citizens, and whose legacy encompasses influential decisions, monumental actions and steadfast progressions of humanitarian rights reaching far beyond the civil rights movement; and

WHEREAS, as noted by the National Civil Rights Museum, "a leader of all people, Dr. King never chose fear, but always chose courage and determination when fighting for civil rights in the face of oppression, ignorance and violence. He refused to allow prison, violence or the threat of death to sway his end mission"; instead, Dr. King stood beside his goal of achieving rights for all through nonviolent protests; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King championed a vision for a more diverse America where all people enjoy the benefits of equality, taking the high road during a time when the opposition implemented legislation withholding rights from BIPOC citizens, and expressed hatred through beatings and killings; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King, a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, keenly understood the impact of unifying people to fight for a common goal, knowing that attaining significant progress separately would be challenging; and

WHEREAS, he and other civil rights activists collectively influenced nationwide change, with Dr. King's leadership contributing to the overall success of the civil rights movement in the mid-20th century and which continues to impact civil rights movements today; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cincinnati was honored by Dr. King's presence when he visited in May and October of 1964, as well as in June and September of 1967; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King's life was tragically cut short by an assassin's bullet on April 4, 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee while he was championing the cause of labor in the Sanitation Workers' Strike; and

WHEREAS, due to the efforts of many dedicated community leaders and activists who sought national recognition for Dr. King, the third Monday in January is nationally recognized across the United States as a day to remember Dr. King, his legacy, and the causes for which he so gallantly fought and died; and

WHEREAS, while Dr. King generated momentous strides for equality, the push for civil rights remains a preeminent challenge today, and work must continue to eliminate poverty, fight for equal pay regardless of gender or race, resist education inequality, and seek equal justice in the eyes of the law for all; and

WHEREAS, the MLK Coalition of Cincinnati is set to host its 46th Annual Commemorative March and Motorcade in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day in Cincinnati on January 18, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Cincinnati City Council would like to extend its gratitude to the MLK Coalition for continuing to work to build a better world and to bring about Dr. King's vision of our Beloved Community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the Mayor and this Council hereby recognize January 18, 2021 as Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in the City of Cincinnati, and ask all residents to reflect upon the significance of this extraordinary man's life and how we may collectively continue to honor his great legacy.

Section 2. That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council.

Passed: _____, 2021

Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk

Submitted by Councilmember Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney, Councilmember Wendell Young, and Vice Mayor Christopher Smitherman