

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE:	Proclamation Declaring January 16, 2023, as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day in the City of Shoreline		
DEPARTMENT:	Community Services		
PRESENTED BY:	Sunil Tolton, Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator		
ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance	<input type="checkbox"/> Resolution	<input type="checkbox"/> Motion
	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proclamation

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:

In 1983 President Ronald Reagan signed a bill designating the third Monday of January as a federal holiday to honor Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., one of the most important civil rights leaders who fought to end racial segregation through nonviolent action.

Born on January 15, 1929, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. skipped both 9th and 11th grades and graduated from high school at the age of fifteen. He attended Morehouse College in Atlanta, where his father and grandfather graduated and studied theology in Pennsylvania at Crozer Theological Seminary. He met and married his wife Coretta Scott in Boston in 1953 and graduated from Boston University with his doctorate in 1955.

As pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, Rev. Dr. King served as a member of the executive committee of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and was selected to lead the Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1955, which lasted 382 days and resulted in the end of segregation on buses. Following the victory from the Montgomery Bus Boycott, 60 ministers and civil rights activists founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) in 1957 and elected Rev. Dr. King as president, which increased his national presence in support of nonviolent protests, Black voter registration drives, and community organizing efforts.

In 1963, images of Black children being brutally attacked with police dogs and water hoses in Birmingham, Alabama were broadcast nationally highlighted the terrors of racial injustice and Rev. Dr. King's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" explained the rationale for direct action as necessary for change. On August 28, 1963, Rev. Dr. King gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech at the historic March of Washington with over 200,000 people present. The demonstrations and increased national awareness of racial injustice led to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which ended segregation in public places and banned employment discrimination. The calls for racial justice also enabled

Congress to pass the 1965 Voting Rights Act which prohibits racial discrimination in voting.

In following years, Rev. Dr. King became a vocal opponent of the Vietnam War and worked to unite all in a multiracial coalition with the "Poor Peoples Campaign" to address poverty, unemployment, and advocate for economic justice. Tragically, he was murdered on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee, where he had arrived to support a sanitation workers' strike.

Rev. Dr. King will forever be heralded as an eloquent champion for civil rights despite the constant criticism, threats on his life, and imprisonment that he and his family endured. In 1964 Rev. Dr. King became the youngest person at the time to receive the Nobel Peace Prize at the age of 35. Guided by his Christian faith and influenced by the teachings of nonviolence by Mahatma Gandhi, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. inspired the nation and the world to fight for justice and end racial discrimination through direct action rather than passively allowing injustices to persist.

In recognition of his service, King County was officially renamed in his honor on April 19, 2005, when Washington Governor Christine Gregoire signed Senate Bill 5332 into law. This step finalized a process that began in 1986 when the King County Council passed a motion to name the county after Martin Luther King, Jr.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Mayor announce the issuance of the proclamation.

Approved By: City Manager **BE** City Attorney **MK**



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., born on January 15, 1929, devoted his life to advancing equality, social justice, and opportunity for all through nonviolence; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Dr. King called upon all to challenge "man's hostility to man," stating that all people "are tied in an escapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny " and that whatever affects one directly, affects everyone indirectly; and

WHEREAS, to achieve Reverend Dr. King's "Beloved Community," there is no true justice without equality; and

WHEREAS, each of us can and must work to make our communities better by undoing individual, institutional, and structural racism through examining and changing our behaviors, beliefs, and policies; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Keith Scully, Mayor of the City of Shoreline, on behalf of the Shoreline City Council, do hereby proclaim January 16, 2023, as

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

And encourage all residents to work to end racism and fight for justice for all.

Keith Scully, Mayor