

SAN RAFAEL CITY SCHOOLS

RESOLUTION # 2425-34

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 20, 2025

Whereas Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was born January 15, 1929;

Whereas Dr. King attended segregated public schools in Georgia and began attending Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, at the age of 15;

Whereas, in February of 1948, Dr. King was ordained in the Christian ministry at the age of 19 at Ebenezer Baptist Church, in Atlanta, Georgia, and became Assistant Pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church;

Whereas Dr. King was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1948 from Morehouse College, a Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1951, from Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in theology in 1955, from Boston University;

Whereas Dr. King led the Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott for 381 days to protest the arrest of Rosa Parks and the segregation of the bus system of Montgomery, during which time Dr. King was arrested and the home of Dr. King was bombed;

Whereas Dr. King responded to arrests and violence with nonviolence and courage in the face of hatred;

Whereas the Montgomery bus boycott was the first great nonviolent civil rights demonstration of contemporary times in the United States;

Whereas, on December 13, 1956, the Supreme Court declared laws requiring segregation on buses unconstitutional;

Whereas, between 1957 and 1968, 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;

Whereas, on August 28, 1963, Dr. King led the March on Washington, DC, 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, one of the classic orations in American history;

Whereas Dr. King was a champion of nonviolence, fervently advocated nonviolent resistance as the strategy to end segregation and racial discrimination in America, and in 1964, at age 35,

became the youngest man to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition for his efforts;

Whereas through his work and reliance on nonviolent protest, Dr. King was instrumental in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965;

Whereas the work of Dr. King created a basis of understanding and respect and helped communities, and the United States as a whole, to act cooperatively and courageously to restore tolerance, justice, and equality among people;

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 Dr. King dedicated his life to securing the fundamental principles of the United States of liberty and justice for all United States citizens;

Whereas Dr. King was the leading civil rights advocate of his time, spearheading the civil rights movement in the United States during the 1950s and 1960s and earning worldwide recognition as an eloquent and articulate spokesperson for equality;

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;

Whereas Dr. King awakened the conscience and consciousness of the United States and used his message of hope to bring people together to build the "Beloved Community", a community of justice, at peace with itself;

Whereas, in 1968, Representative John Conyers introduced legislation to establish the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., as a Federal holiday;

Whereas, in 1983, Congress passed and President Ronald Reagan signed legislation creating the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday, which is now observed in more than 100 countries;

Whereas the values of faith, compassion, courage, truth, justice, and nonviolence that guided Dr. and Mrs. King's dream for America are now celebrated and preserved by the Martin Luther King, Jr., National Memorial on the National Mall and in the National Museum of African American History and Culture;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the San Rafael City School District Board of Education does hereby adopt this resolution to declare January 20, 2025 as Dr. Martin Luther

King, Jr. Day and encourages participation in this special annual tribute with appropriate programs and activities that celebrate his contributions to the United States.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on January 13, 2025, by the Governing Board of the San Rafael City Schools, by the following vote,

Carolina Martin	_____
Mark Koerner	_____
Maureen de Nieva Marsh	_____
Isai Rodas	_____

Carolina Martin
Board President

Carmen Diaz Ghysels
Superintendent