

1 **RESOLUTION BY THE FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS IN**
2 **OBSERVANCE OF THE 96th BIRTHDAY OF THE REVEREND DR. MARTIN LUTHER**
3 **KING JR.**

4
5 **WHEREAS**, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (“Dr. King”) was born in Fulton
6 County, Georgia in the City of Atlanta, 96 years ago, on January 15, 1929; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Dr. King is the son of Martin Luther King Sr. and Mrs. Alberta Williams
8 King, and the grandson of the Reverend and Mrs. A.D. Williams; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Dr. King lies at eternal rest and peace alongside his wife Coretta Scott
10 King, at The King Center for Nonviolent Social Change, located on Auburn Avenue in the
11 City of Atlanta; and

12 **WHEREAS**, like his father and grandfather before him, Dr. King became the pastor
13 of Ebenezer Baptist Church in the City of Atlanta; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Dr. King attended Booker T. Washington High School, then attended
15 Morehouse College, graduating at 19, and later earning a divinity degree in Pennsylvania
16 and a Doctor of Philosophy Degree at Boston University; and

17 **WHEREAS**, in the early 1950s, Dr. King became the pastor of Dexter Avenue
18 Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama and subsequently led many of the greatest
19 nonviolent demonstrations in United States history including the Montgomery Bus
20 Boycott; and

21 **WHEREAS**, at the age of only twenty-eight, in 1957, Dr. King established the
22 Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) to fight segregation and achieve civil
23 rights, becoming its first president; and

24 **WHEREAS**, in the face of crippling opposition, Dr. King stood firm and continued to
25 fight for social change, all while subjecting himself to danger and multiple arrests,

1 including being arrested along with his brother Alfred Daniels “A.D.” Williams King and
2 dozens more civil rights activists participating in an October 1960, Atlanta lunch-counter
3 sit-in; and

4 **WHEREAS**, in August 1963, Dr. King delivered one of the world’s most
5 recognizable and memorable speeches (*I Have A Dream*) to more than a quarter of a
6 million people in the United States capital, on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., as
7 the culmination of the historic March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, which helped
8 propel passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and

9 **WHEREAS**, in his last months of life, Dr. King was organizing the Poor People’s
10 Campaign, traveling across the country to assemble a multiracial army of demonstrators
11 representing those who lived at and below the poverty line; and

12 **WHEREAS**, although Dr. King’s life was tragically cut short at the age of thirty-nine
13 by an assassin at a Memphis, Tennessee motel, while fighting for equality for city
14 sanitation workers, his courage, selflessness, and most importantly his philosophy of
15 nonviolent direct action, caused a nation to reevaluate its moral compass and paved the
16 way for rational and nondestructive social change; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Dr. King’s example continues to challenge us to meet the needs of the
18 least of us, reminding us to be a voice for those silenced, courageous for those afraid,
19 and to stand up for those who cannot, even at great personal peril; and

20 **WHEREAS**, at the age of thirty-five, Dr. King became the youngest recipient of the
21 Nobel Peace Prize, and later was awarded posthumously the two highest American
22 civilian honors: the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1977, and the Congressional Gold
23 Medal in 2004; and

1 **ATTEST:**

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Tonya R. Grier

6 Clerk to the Commission

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9 **APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

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Y. Soo Jo

14 County Attorney