

**A RESOLUTION BY THE FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS IN OBSERVANCE OF THE 94th
BIRTHDAY OF THE REVEREND DR. MARTIN LUTHER
KING JR.**

WHEREAS, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (“Dr. King”) was born in Fulton County, in the City of Atlanta, 94 years ago, on January 15, 1929, the son of Martin Luther King Sr. and Mrs. Alberta Williams King, and the grandson of the Reverend and Mrs. A.D. Williams; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King lies at eternal rest and peace alongside his wife Coretta Scott King, at The King Center for Nonviolent Social Change, on Auburn Avenue in Atlanta; and

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, in the face of crippling opposition, Dr. King stood firm and continued to fight for social change, all while subjecting himself to danger and multiple arrests, including being arrested along with his brother Alfred Daniels “A.D.” Williams King and dozens more participating in an October 1960, Atlanta lunch-counter sit-in; and

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

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

WHEREAS, although Dr. King’s life was tragically cut short at the age of 39 by an assassin at a Memphis, Tennessee motel, while fighting for equality for city sanitation workers, his courage, selflessness, and most importantly his philosophy of nonviolent direct action, caused a nation to reevaluate its moral compass and paved the way for rational and nondestructive social change—a struggle that by the very nature of the “Black Lives Matter” movement; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Dr. King’s example continues to challenge us to meet the needs of the least of us,
2 reminding us to be a voice for those silenced, courageous for those afraid, and to stand up for
3 those who cannot at great personal peril; and
4

5 **WHEREAS**, at the age of thirty-five, Dr. King became the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace
6 Prize, and later was awarded posthumously the two highest American civilian honors: the
7 Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1977, and the Congressional Gold Medal in 2004; and
8

9 **WHEREAS**, after a long and relentless effort by his Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity brothers, Dr.
10 King’s likeness stands as the only African-American at the United States National Mall in
11 Washington, D.C., dedicated in 2011, at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial.
12

13 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that on this fourth day of January in the year two
14 thousand twenty-three, and of the establishment of Fulton County, Georgia over one hundred
15 seventy years ago, the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County enthusiastically joins in the
16 national observance of the 94th birthday of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and hereby
17 honors his life and legacy as the County’s greatest resident, and urges all Fulton citizens to
18 participate in the observance, and;
19

20 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County directs the
21 Clerk to the Commission to spread this Resolution upon the official minutes and record of the
22 Board of Commissioners of Fulton County, Georgia, and disseminate the Resolution appropriately
23 throughout all of Fulton County and to the immediate family members of Dr. King.
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25
26 **FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF**
27 **COMMISSIONERS**
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29 **Sponsored By:**
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Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, Commissioner
35 District 6
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37 **ATTEST:**
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Tonya R. Grier
41 Clerk to the Commission
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43 **APPROVED AS TO FORM:**
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Y. Soo Jo
47 County Attorney
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