

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION remembering the 45th Anniversary of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s death, April 4, 2013

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to remember the 45th Anniversary of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s death, April 4, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was an African-American clergyman, humanitarian, activist, author, orator and prominent leader in the African-American Civil Rights Movement; and

WHEREAS, He is best known for his role in the advancement of civil and human rights in the United States and around the world, using nonviolent methods following the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi; and

WHEREAS, Martin Luther King, Jr. was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia, the middle child of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Sr. and Alberta Williams King; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King attended Booker T. Washington High School, where he skipped both the ninth and the twelfth grades and entered Morehouse College at the age of 15; and

WHEREAS, In 1948, he graduated from Morehouse College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology, and graduated with a Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1951 from Crozer Theological Seminary; he then began doctoral studies in systematic theology at Boston University and received his Doctor of Philosophy on June 5, 1955; and

WHEREAS, In 1955, Dr. King led the Montgomery Bus Boycott movement and in 1963 led the March on Washington, where he delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech; there, he charged America to expand its values to include the vision of a color blind society; and

WHEREAS, In 1964, Dr. King became the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for his work to end racial segregation and racial discrimination through civil disobedience and other nonviolent means; he also began refocusing his efforts on ending poverty and stopping the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King was involved in planning the summer 1968 Poor People Campaign to take place in Washington, D.C.; he had vowed to remain in Washington, D.C. until the government addressed the increasing needs of the poor people of the United States; and

WHEREAS, On March 29, 1968, Dr. King went to Memphis, Tennessee, in support of the black sanitation public works employees, who had been on strike since March 12th for higher wages and better treatment; in one incident, black street repairmen received pay for two hours when they were sent home because of bad weather, but white employees were paid for the full day; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King was assassinated on April 4, 1968, at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Upon the occasion of the remembrance of the 45th Anniversary of the death of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., it is the intent of this Legislative Body to commemorate the heroic efforts of Dr. King, who loved and served humanity, and who was an advocate for peace, justice and righteousness; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to remember the 45th Anniversary of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s death, April 4, 2013.