

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 239

Approved March 26, 2018

WHEREAS, Beginning with his leadership of the 1955 Montgomery bus boycott, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. became the face of the civil rights movement in the United States, promoting nonviolent protest and coalition-building to unite the country around solutions to problems that had divided it since its founding; and

WHEREAS, Through his efforts, Dr. King advanced the hopes of millions of Americans who had been denied their deserved share of the American Dream, instilling in them a sense of hope and progress, while leading white Americans to embrace a more inclusive vision of American citizenship and community; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King's vision overcame deep divisions within the country, which previously had been the source of despair and violence; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King's vision and efforts helped form a movement of followers and fellow leaders, but his own role within the movement was unique; and

WHEREAS, On the night of April 3, 1968, Dr. King spoke in Memphis, Tennessee about how he had seen the Promised Land, even if he could not reach it himself; and

WHEREAS, On April 4, 1968, Dr. King's mission was cut short by an assassin, plunging the nation into grief, and robbing the civil rights movement of its greatest leader; and

WHEREAS, Chaos and riots followed throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, Despite the best efforts of Dr. King's fellow leaders, the civil rights movement lost critical momentum within the tumult that gripped the country during the rest of 1968; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King's passing marked a turning point in the history of our country's progress towards greater equality and community; and

WHEREAS, As we mark 50 years following Dr. King's death, our country faces a new era of division and inequality that challenge its fundamental values; and

WHEREAS, The majority of Americans alive today only know of Dr. King as a figure of past history, and did not experience the feeling of optimism, hope and progress he brought to the country; and

WHEREAS, At many places nationally, including the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Park, the National Civil Rights Museum and Martin Luther King Center will mark April 4, 2018 as Remembrance Day.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council declares April 4, 2018 as Remembrance Day, which it encourages City residents to observe as a call for reflection and action by:

- Flying flags at half staff;
- Devoting time in U.S. History classes in the Providence Public Schools that day to discussing Dr. King, how he changed the country for the good, and how the country changed after he passed away; and how to advance that legacy in today's society, and
- Supporting public discussion of Dr. King's accomplishments, the impact of his loss, and ways to revive the hope, optimism and progress he brought to his community and the United States as a whole.

IN CITY COUNCIL

MAR 15 2018

READ AND PASSED

Daniel G. Gannon
PRES.

Lori L. Hughes
CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.

[Signature]

Mayor
Date: 3/26/18