

**SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**RESOLUTION  
COMMEMORATING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY**

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was born in 1929 in Atlanta Georgia;

**WHEREAS**, the young Martin Luther King attended segregated public schools and graduated from high school at age 15;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. King received his B.A. degree from Morehouse College in Georgia, the alma mater of both his father and grandfather and earned his B.D. from Crozer Theological Seminary. Later, in 1955, he received a Ph.D. from Boston University;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. King was committed to equal rights for African-Americans in this country from an early age and was an active member of the NAACP;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. King led the boycott of Montgomery's segregated buses for over a year after Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat in a bus in 1955, and eventually, the Supreme Court outlawed discrimination in public transportation and Dr. King emerged a prominent leader of the civil rights movement;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. King began organizing protest demonstrations and marches in such cities as Birmingham, Alabama, St. Augustine, Florida and Selma, Alabama. The marches were for the right to vote, desegregation, labor rights and other basic civil rights.

**WHEREAS**, between 1957 and 1968, Dr. King canvassed the country and appeared more than 2500 times to speak in protest against injustices toward his race;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. King wrote five books and numerous articles drawing on his experience as a preacher to galvanize and inspire an audience. Dr. King was arrested and jailed on several occasions;

**WHEREAS**, on August 28, 1963, Dr. King led the great march in Washington, DC, that culminated with his famous "I Have a Dream" speech at the Lincoln Memorial. More than a quarter million people of all ethnicities attended the event.

**WHEREAS**, at the height of Dr. King's influence, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 were passed.

**WHEREAS**, Dr. King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, at the age of 35.

**WHEREAS**, Dr. King continued his work to attack discrimination in other parts of the North and broadened his criticism against the Vietnam War;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. King advocated for government compensatory program seeking restitution of wages lost to slavery which in turn, demanded aid for the poorest communities and sought an economic bill of rights that provided for massive government job programs to reconstruct society;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. King continued to participate in the movement by supporting black city workers striking for higher wages and better treatment in Memphis, Tennessee where he was assassinated;

**WHEREAS**, in 1986, Congress established the Martin Luther King Day as a United States holiday and in 1994, King Day of Service was built on the teachings of nonviolence and social justice to promote community service. The aim is to make the holiday a day where people of all ages and backgrounds come together to improve lives, bridge social barriers, and move our nation closer to the “Beloved Community” that Dr. King envisioned.

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District celebrates the life and legacy of a man who brought hope and healing to America. We commemorate the timeless values he taught us through his example – the values of courage, truth, justice, compassion, dignity, humility and service that so radiantly defined Dr. King’s character and empowered his leadership. On this holiday, we commemorate the universal, unconditional love, forgiveness and nonviolence that empowered his revolutionary spirit, and speaks to the best of who we are as human beings.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that our schools, offices, and broader community become places that embody the spirit of this great American by promoting and embracing reconciliation, respect, brotherhood, and our common humanity, not just today, but every day of the year.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 16<sup>th</sup> day of January 2020 by the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

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Jon Kean  
Board President

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Dr. Ben Drati  
Superintendent