

RECOGNITION OF JANUARY AS DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MONTH
January 9, 2019

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., born Michael Luther King, Jr., in Atlanta, Georgia, on January 15, 1929, was an American Baptist minister and leader in the civil rights movement from 1954 until his assassination on April 4, 1968; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was baptized, ordained, and served as co-pastor with his father until 1968 at Ebenezer Baptist Church, which played a critical role in influencing his Christian values and his pursuit of justice and equality; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is widely known for advancing civil rights through nonviolence and civil disobedience; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., led the 1955 Montgomery bus boycott and in 1957, he became the first president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; and

WHEREAS, while serving as president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., helped organize the nonviolent 1963 protests in Birmingham, Alabama, and he helped organize the 1963 March on Washington, where he delivered his famous “I Have a Dream” speech; and

WHEREAS, on October 14, 1964, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for combating racial inequality through nonviolence resistance; and

WHEREAS, in 1965, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., helped organize the Selma to Montgomery marches, and in 1966, he and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference took the movement to Chicago, Illinois, to work on segregated housing; and

WHEREAS, during his final years, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., expanded his focus to include opposition towards poverty and the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, the idea of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day as a holiday was initially promoted by labor unions in contract negotiations, then introduced as a bill by legislators, but faced opposition and fell short on votes until the King Center reached out to the corporate community and the general public for support and launched a signature-raising campaign; and

WHEREAS, to continue the momentum of support for the bill, in 1980 iconic R&B musician Stevie Wonder released the single “Happy Birthday” to popularize the campaign, and in 1981 he hosted the Rally for Peace Press Conference, ultimately resulting in six million signatures – the largest petition in favor of an issue in U.S. history – collected for a petition to Congress to pass the law; and

WHEREAS, on November 2, 1983, President Ronald Regan signed the bill, proposed by Congresswoman Katie Beatrice Hall (D-Indiana), to create a federal holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day was first observed as a federal holiday on January 20, 1986, and continues to be observed as an official federal holiday the third Monday of January every year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of South San Francisco does hereby proclaim January as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Month and encourages all residents and visitors alike to join us in celebrating this special month.

Karyl Matsumoto, Mayor

Richard Garbarino, Vice Mayor

Mark Addiego, Council Member

Flor Carpio-Nicolas, Council Member

Mark Nagales, Council Member