

**RESOLUTION NO. RS2018-1137**

**A resolution commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination.**

WHEREAS, 50 years ago, on April 4, 1968, a powerful civil rights activist and peaceful voice for freedom was lost when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated on the balcony of his motel room in Memphis, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King used his eloquence, his leadership, his sense of morality, and his belief in the power of peaceful resistance to awaken the nation's conscience and advance the cause of civil rights; and

WHEREAS, as a founding member and first president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), Dr. King preached a message of nonviolence that became deeply rooted in the Southern communities he sought to free from oppression; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King promoted legislative change to encode the civil rights that he worked to advance, contributing to the dismantling of Jim Crow, the desegregation of institutions, and the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and

WHEREAS, in response to fierce opposition, threats, surveillance, imprisonment, and violence from those who feared his message, Dr. King offered peace and unflinching courage in return, earning him the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize - the youngest person to ever receive the award; and

WHEREAS, through his life's unselfish sacrifice, Dr. King brought the nation and the world closer to his vision of the "Beloved Community" in which peace, justice, and love prevail over hatred and division; and

WHEREAS, a half-century later, the power of Dr. King's words and actions remains undiminished, their meaning relevant and their direction clear.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

SECTION 1. The Metropolitan Council hereby commemorates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and encourages all citizens to observe this solemn occasion, to recall the legacy of Dr. King, and to heed his call for unity, love and compassion.

SECTION 2. This Resolution shall take effect from and after its adoption, the welfare of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requiring it.

INTRODUCED BY:

---

Tanaka Vercher  
Member of Council