



## **Martin Luther King Jr. Day Proclamation**

**Whereas**, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s leadership in the American Civil Rights Movement helped dismantle institutional segregation, expand voting rights, and advance civil liberties for millions of Americans; and

**Whereas**, Martin Luther King, Jr., Day is observed each January in recognition of the January 15 birth of Dr. King, with the federal holiday designated on the third Monday of January to encourage national reflection, education, and community service in honor of his life and enduring legacy; and

**Whereas**, honoring Dr. King's legacy strengthens our collective resolve to build bridges across differences, promote opportunity for all, and ensure that every individual is treated with dignity and fairness; and

**Whereas**, local governments play a critical role in advancing Dr. King's legacy by modeling fairness, expanding access to opportunity, and fostering inclusive spaces where all voices are welcomed and valued; and

**Whereas**, this year's theme, "Mission Possible 2: Building Community, Uniting a Nation the Nonviolent Way", reflects the continued relevance of Dr. King's unfinished work and calls for renewed, collective action. This message emphasizes that achieving unity, equity, and justice remains within reach, but only through intentional community-building and a shared commitment to nonviolence; and

**Whereas**, the ongoing pursuit of justice requires both the courage to move forward and the humility to acknowledge the pain, inequities, and divisions left along the way, calling our community to heal with honesty, lead with compassion, and continue the work of unity envisioned by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

**Whereas**, on Nov. 2, 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed Martin Luther King Jr. Day into law as a U.S. federal holiday, and was first officially observed nationwide on Jan. 20, 1986;

**Now therefore**, the Town Council does hereby proclaim that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day be celebrated on January 19, 2026, and asks all residents in the Town of Erie to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

**Dated this 13<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2026.**

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Andrew J. Moore, Mayor

Attest:

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Debbie Stamp, Deputy Town Clerk