MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on August 28, 1963, just a century after the Emancipation Proclamation, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. led more than 200,000 Americans in a March on Washington, D.C. in pursuit of jobs and freedom for all people. Standing on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, he called on Americans "to sit down together at the table of brotherhood" and meet our promise of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King became the voice of the American civil rights movement during the 1950s and 1960s which resulted in landmark legislation—the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated on April 4, 1968, at 39 years of age. The voice of Dr. King was not silenced, and his faith and courage in proclaiming the message of liberty and justice for all lives on; and

WHEREAS, federal legislation signed into law on November 2, 1983, established a legal holiday to be celebrated on the third Monday in January honoring the life of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who was born on January 15, 1929.

WHEREAS, today, we honor and celebrate Dr. King, a giant of the civil rights movement whose nonviolent resistance to the injustices of his era — racial segregation, employment discrimination, and the denial of the right to vote — enlightened our Nation and the world.

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. described our Constitution and Declaration of Independence as promissory notes left by our Founding Fathers for "every American to fall heir." His dream, rooted in the American Dream, was that our children might be "judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character." This dream, he hoped, would finally let freedom ring for all people regardless of race, gender, creed, or religion.

WHEREAS, with the same dream, faith, and hope championed by Dr. King, we recommit to upholding his legacy and meeting our sacred obligation to protect the unalienable rights of all Americans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dan Sheets, Mayor for the City of Monroe, do hereby proclaim the day of January 17, 2022 as ...

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

... in the City of Monroe, we honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who inspired this country and the world with his vision and dedication to freedom and equality for all.

ESTABLISHED 1914

DATED this 14th day of January, 2022.

Dan Sheets, Mayor