



PROCLAMATION

Martin Luther King Jr. Day 2026

WHEREAS, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, observed on the third Monday of January, honors the life and legacy of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., whose leadership transformed the fight for racial, economic, and social justice in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King, a minister, scholar, and global advocate for human rights was born January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia. He dedicated his life to a philosophy of nonviolence and building a future embodied by the Beloved Community, his vision of our society achievable through a fundamental transformation of hearts and systems alike; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King's words inspired countless individuals to participate in change, most notably with his "I Have A Dream" address, establishing him as a national symbol of hope and reminding the country of its responsibility to fulfill its foundational promises; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King's leadership and advocacy helped to move the government into action, securing landmark civil rights legislation including the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which prohibited segregation and employment discrimination, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 which protected voting rights, and the Fair Housing Act of 1968 which prohibited housing discrimination; and

WHEREAS, at the age of thirty-five, Dr. King received the esteemed Nobel Peace Prize and gained an international platform that he used to connect the issues of militarism, racism and materialism. While controversial and unpopular at the time, Dr. King pushed for an end to the Vietnam war through his speeches and anti-war demonstrations while also addressing class exploitation by creating the Poor People's Campaign; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. brought his mission of advancing justice to Joliet during his visit on June 4, 1965 when he spoke at a rally at Memorial Stadium, calling on the community to embrace racial integration and a true brotherhood grounded in moral and ethical action; and

WHEREAS, this holiday is the nation's only federal day of service. Dr. King's dream of a just and inclusive society remains a guiding light for generations, yet the work of turning that dream into a reality remains unfinished; and

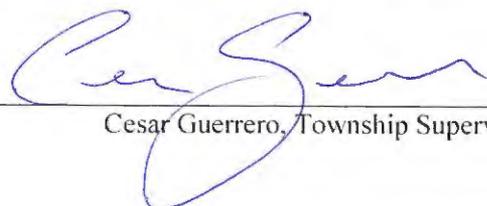
WHEREAS, racism and inequities persist in housing, wages, education, health, and access to opportunity. His legacy urges us to confront these injustices and work together toward a society rooted in dignity, equity, and shared humanity; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Joliet Township Government proclaims January 19, 2026, as **Martin Luther King Jr. Day** in Joliet Township, and encourages all residents to honor Dr. King through reflection, service, and continued commitment to justice for all.

ADOPTED this 13th day of January of 2026.

ATTEST:


Kendra Landfair, Township Clerk


Cesar Guerrero, Township Supervisor