



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, fifty years ago, on April 4, 1968, a powerful 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;

WHEREAS, during his short lifetime, 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;

WHEREAS, as a founding member and first president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Dr. King preached a message of nonviolence that became deeply rooted in the Southern communities he sought to free from oppression and that shaped the protests and campaigns that brought about new freedoms;

WHEREAS, in the course of these campaigns, Dr. King was instrumental in Virginia's fight for civil rights, making dozens of trips to the Commonwealth to encourage African American voter registration and involvement in the political process, to protest the closing of public schools and the widespread resistance to desegregation, to guide civil demonstrations against deeply entrenched segregation, and to preach a message of love and nonviolence across the Commonwealth;

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;

WHEREAS, in response to fierce opposition, threats, surveillance, imprisonment, and violence from those who feared his message, Dr. King encouraged nonviolence and offered peace and unflinching courage in return;

WHEREAS, Dr. King lived the message of nonviolence and love that he preached, believing, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that";

WHEREAS, the Season for Nonviolence is a global grassroots campaign dedicated to raising awareness about the healing and transforming power of nonviolence and spanning the memorial anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.;

WHEREAS, the Virginia Beach Human Rights Commission joins the ViBe Creative District, the Interspiritual Empowerment Project, Teens With a Purpose, Children for Change, the Chrysler Museum of Art, Virginia Beach MOCCA and other City and community partners to herald the Season for Nonviolence and to encourage the ideals of attaining peace through nonviolent action, as demonstrated by legendary leaders Mahatma Gandhi and Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, a half-century later, Dr. King's dream remains to be fully realized, "that one day this Nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal";

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA THAT the Virginia Beach City Council hereby commemorates the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and encourages the citizens of Virginia Beach to celebrate the Season for Nonviolence by recalling the legacy of Dr. King and emulating his commitment to peace, unity, and compassion.

Council Lady Jessica R. Abbott

Councilman M. Benjamin Davenport

Councilman Robert M. "Bob" Dyer

Council Lady Barbara Stanley

Council Lady Shannon DS Kane

Councilman John D. Moss

Councilman John E. Uhrin

Council Lady Rosemary Wilson

Councilman James L. Wood

Vice Mayor Louis R. Jones

Mayor William D. "Will" Sessions, Jr.