



**CITY OF KIRKLAND**  
**City Manager's Office**  
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[www.kirklandwa.gov](http://www.kirklandwa.gov)

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## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Kurt Triplett, City Manager

**From:** David Wolbrecht, Senior Neighborhood Services Coordinator

**Date:** December 30, 2020

**Subject:** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Proclamation

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Mayor proclaim January 18, 2021 as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service in the City of Kirkland.

### **BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:**

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is an American Federal and Washington State holiday commemorating the birthday of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The holiday was signed into law on November 2, 1983, by President Ronald Reagan. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday is observed on the third Monday of January each year. Dr. King's birthday is January 15.

In 1994, Congress initiated the King Holiday and Service Act, challenging Americans to transform the King Holiday into a day of community volunteer service in honor of Dr. King. The Act was signed into law by President Bill Clinton on August 23, 1994. Day of Service activities are organized by a wide range of nonprofit and community organizations, educational institutions, public agencies, private businesses, and other organizations across the nation.

The tragic killing of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer in May of 2020, and the subsequent marches and protests for social justice of the past year were important reminders of racism and inequality that persists in society. On August 4, 2020, the City of Kirkland passed legislation (R-5434) affirming that Black lives matter and that Kirkland will create a community where Black people feel safe and respected. By initiating actions in R-5434 to examine and dismantle institutional and structural racism in Kirkland, Kirkland strives to achieve Dr. King's dream of a society where people "will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

By proclaiming January 18, 2021, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, all Kirkland residents and businesses will be encouraged to serve their neighbors and community on this day and throughout the year.



# A Proclamation of the City of Kirkland

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**Proclaiming January 18, 2021 as**

**“Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service” in Kirkland**

**WHEREAS**, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. devoted his life to advancing equality, social justice, and opportunity for all, challenged all residents to help build a more perfect union and live up to the purpose and potential of America, and his teachings continue to guide and inspire us in addressing challenges in our own communities; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1994 Congress initiated the King Holiday and Service Act, a nationwide effort to transform the federal holiday honoring the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. into a day of community service, grounded in Dr. King’s teachings, that helps solve social problems while focusing on bringing people together and breaking down the barriers that have divided us as a nation; and

**WHEREAS**, racism and inequality persists in our society and since the tragic killing of George Floyd by a police officer on May 25, 2020 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, there have been dozens of protests, marches and rallies in Kirkland calling for an end to structural racism and for the City of Kirkland to demonstrate that Black lives matter; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 4, 2020, the City of Kirkland passed Resolution R-5434 affirming that Black lives matter and committing to examining and dismantling institutional and structural racism in Kirkland, which must happen if we are to achieve Dr. King’s dream of a society where people “will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character”; and

**WHEREAS**, engaging in community service on the King Holiday is an appropriate way to honor Dr. King, meet local and national needs, bring our residents together, and strengthen our communities and nation; and

**WHEREAS**, the King Day of Service is the only federal holiday commemorated as a national day of service, and offers an opportunity for Americans to give back to their communities on the holiday and make an ongoing commitment to service throughout the year; and

**WHEREAS**, the King Day of Service projects are being organized by a wide range of nonprofit and community organizations, educational institutions, public agencies, private businesses, and other organizations across the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, Kirkland community members are encouraged to participate in King Day of Service volunteer events and commit to a full year of service to their neighbors and community since positive change requires the collective action of everyone;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Penny Sweet, Mayor of Kirkland, Washington proclaim the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday as a Day of Service in Kirkland, and call upon the people of Kirkland, Washington, to serve their neighbors and their community through participation in community service projects on Martin Luther King Jr. Day and to commit to year of service to generate positive change.

Signed this 5<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021

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Penny Sweet, Mayor