



**CITY OF KIRKLAND**  
City Manager's Office  
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## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Kurt Triplett, City Manager  
**From:** Erika Mascorro, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Manager  
**Date:** December 21, 2023  
**Subject:** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Proclamation

### RECOMMENDATION:

That the Mayor proclaim Monday, January 15, 2024, 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 January 15<sup>th</sup>, 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. holiday is not observed on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January each year, but rather on the third Monday of January.

In 1994, Congress initiated the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday and Service Act, challenging Americans to transform the holiday into a day of community volunteer service to honor his life and encourage Americans to find common causes and methods of improving their communities. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. led national nonviolent campaigns for racial justice during the civil rights movement that assisted in bringing about the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The Holiday and Service Act was signed into law by President Bill Clinton on August 23, 1994. Martin Luther King, Jr. 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.

By proclaiming January 15, 2024, as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, all Kirkland residents and businesses are encouraged to serve their neighbors and community. The City has year-round volunteer opportunities. Community members interested in volunteering are encouraged to learn more about the City's Volunteer Program on the [City's website](#).

There are many special events and programs celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. throughout the surrounding area that provide educational opportunities and engage the community in social justice topics. For example if you have children, you can visit the [Seattle's Child](#) website for a guide to kid-friendly celebratory and educational events. Local MLK, Jr. Day of Service volunteer opportunities will be promoted through all communication channels and "This Week in Kirkland" in the first two weeks of January.

While the holiday is an opportunity to honor progress that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. worked for, it should also be used as learning opportunity for how far the nation still must go to achieve racial equality. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope." It is that hope that fuels the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging work and supports our City values to be a welcoming city to all.

The proclamation will be received by Mike Milligan, Retired-President Verizon Global Wholesale and Board Member, a Kirkland Resident for 25 years.



# A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

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## Proclaiming January 15, 2024, as “Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service” in Kirkland, Washington

**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**, serving one’s community 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 Martin Luther King, Jr. 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 Martin Luther King, Jr. 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 community and can visit the City’s website for volunteer opportunities;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, Mayor Penny Sweet, on behalf of the City Council, does hereby proclaim Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as Martin Luther King, Jr. 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 a year of service to generate positive change.

Signed this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of January, 2024

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, Mayor