

# COLUMBIA HEIGHTS

## PROCLAMATION

Recognizing January 19, 2026, as Martin Luther King Jr. Day

The City of Columbia Heights honors the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., whose vision of justice, dignity, and the “Beloved Community” continues to guide communities striving toward equity, compassion, and mutual respect. Dr. King reminded us that lasting change is built through nonviolence, service, courage, and love for humanity.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is both a time of remembrance and a call to action – an opportunity to lift up leaders who embody these values through service to others and commitment to healing in the face of injustice.

[Rose McGee](#), founder of the [Sweet Potato Comfort Pie Organization](#), lives out Dr. King’s vision through her powerful practice of compassion and connection. In 2014, following the killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, Ms. McGee loaded her car with sweet potato comfort pies and traveled to the site of the tragedy, offering comfort grounded in culture, presence, and care.

Through that experience, Ms. McGee discovered that the pies were far more than a gesture of kindness – they became a catalyst for healing, dialogue, and understanding. She has since forged a practice she calls “baketivism,” using food as a bridge to foster racial healing, courageous conversations, and community connection.

Today, the Sweet Potato Comfort Pie Organization includes a wide range of programs dedicated to nurturing empathy, addressing racial trauma, and growing the Beloved Community that Dr. King envisioned – one rooted in justice, dignity, and shared humanity.

**Now, therefore**, I, Amáda Márquez Simula, Mayor of Columbia Heights, do hereby proclaim this day as a recognition of **Martin Luther King Jr. Day** in the City of Columbia Heights and honor Rose McGee for her leadership, compassion, and steadfast commitment to building Beloved Community through service, healing, and love.

In Columbia Heights, we celebrate culture, community, and connection. We honor the diversity of our residents and the traditions they bring. Let this proclamation reflect our ongoing commitment to belonging, equity, and shared humanity in our City.

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Amáda Márquez Simula, Mayor  
January 12, 2026