



**WHEREAS** the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who was born on January 15, 1929, devoted his life to fighting for justice and equality for people of all races and economic standings through non-violent means; which led to the establishment of many Federal and local laws prohibiting discrimination and fostering human rights; and

**WHEREAS** Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. devoted his life to advancing equality, social justice, and opportunity for all, and challenged all Americans to participate in the never-ending work of building a more perfect union; and

**WHEREAS** Dr. King’s teachings can continue to guide and inspire us in addressing challenges in our communities; and

**WHEREAS** Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement risked and sacrificed their lives to transform public policy from segregation to integration, resulting in the repeal of the Post-Reconstruction Era state laws mandating racial segregation in the South known as the “Jim Crow Laws,” thereby leading to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and other anti-discrimination laws aimed at ending economic, legal, and social segregation in America; and

**WHEREAS** the movement to recognize Dr. King’s legacy as a federal holiday began 4 days after his assassination, yet took 15 years of struggle before his birthday was finally celebrated as a federal holiday; and,

**WHEREAS** the King Holiday and Service Act, enacted in 1994, designated the King Holiday as a national day of volunteer service, and charged the Corporation for National and Community Service with leading this effort; and

**WHEREAS** since 1994 millions of Americans have been inspired by the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to serve their neighbors and communities on the King Holiday; and

**WHEREAS** serving on the King Holiday is an appropriate way to honor Dr. King, meet local and national needs, bring our citizens 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** 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** Dr. King challenged the nation in his speech that, “Our goal is to create a beloved community, and this will require a qualitative change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives;” and

**WHEREAS** Dr. King believed that service was “the soul’s highest purpose,” and was the path to happiness and greatness. Dr. King once said, “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is: ‘What are you doing for others?’” which led communities across the country to answer that question by coming together to honor Dr. King by helping their neighbors and communities through thousands of service projects spread across all 50 states; and

**WHEREAS** the Iowa Colony City Council encourages Iowa Colony residents to observe this holiday by reflecting on Dr. King’s legacy and actively serving others,

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Wil Kennedy, Mayor of the City of Iowa Colony, on behalf of the entire City Council, do hereby proclaim January 15, 2024, as a day to recognize and remember the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the dreams and ideals for which he stood and affirm our commitment to realizing his dreams by lending ourselves to the service of others and community.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Iowa Colony to be affixed on this, the 8<sup>th</sup> day of January 2024.

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Wil Kennedy  
Mayor of Iowa Colony, Texas