

Proclamation

CITY OF RACINE, WISCONSIN

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was an American Baptist minister, civil rights leader, and political philosopher who championed justice and equality as a central figure in the civil rights movement from 1955 until his assassination in 1968; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King led the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott, helped found the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), organized nonviolent protests in Birmingham, delivered the iconic “I Have a Dream” speech at the March on Washington, and played a pivotal role in the Selma to Montgomery marches that advanced voting rights; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 1971, cities and states established annual observances honoring Dr. King, culminating in the creation of a federal holiday first observed in 1986 and celebrated nationwide since 2000; and

WHEREAS, in 2026, we gather under the strategic theme: *Mission Possible II: Building Community, Uniting a Nation the Nonviolent Way*. This theme serves as a blueprint for action, guiding our programs, inspiring our outreach, and anchoring our commitment to building the Beloved Community where love and justice prevail.

WHEREAS, in 2026, as the United States commemorates the 250th anniversary of its founding, Dr. King’s life and legacy remind us that the nation’s promise of liberty and justice for all has been shaped and strengthened by those who labored to expand democracy, civil rights, and equal opportunity; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Cory Mason, Mayor of the City of Racine, do hereby proclaim Monday, January 19, 2026, as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in the City of Racine, and commend its observance through participation in a day of service.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Racine to be affixed.

Accomplished at the City Hall
this 6th day of January 2026.

Mayor