

Official Proclamation

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WHEREAS, The City of Ketchikan, Alaska affirms the principals of equality and inclusion for all persons as set forth for the State of Alaska and the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, The City of Ketchikan recognizes that Martin Luther King, Jr. be honored for his momentous day in which he stirred to action Americans of every race and creed to begin the massive undertaking of ending discrimination, racism and inequality in America; and

WHEREAS, The City of Ketchikan recognizes that every citizen in the United States of America and Alaska shall have the opportunities to build a better and brighter future; and

WHEREAS, The City of Ketchikan recognizes the magnitude of the progress that has been made and that those who dismiss this progress dishonor the courage of all those who marched and struggled to bring about this change; and

WHEREAS, The City of Ketchikan recognizes that we must continue to hold vigilance, the hopes and expectations of Dr. King's work and although we do not face the same challenges that spurred the Civil Rights Movement, we must remain vigilant with the same iron will and hope in ours hearts; and

WHEREAS, The City of Ketchikan recognizes that, although it has been half a century since the words of Dr. King inspired the movement of equality, on this day we acknowledge the hard work of those who continue to carry his message and work to understand the pain of others and assume the best in each other; and

WHEREAS, The City of Ketchikan recognizes that we have yet to realize Dr. King's dream and have much work to do at a time when our politics are so sharply polarized and people are losing faith in our institutions, we must meet his call to stand in another person's shoes and see through their eyes to work; and

WHEREAS, The City of Ketchikan in 2021 will draw on the lessons of our past so we can ensure the flame of justice continues to shine and proactively reexamine and work to right injustice within our community; and

WHEREAS, That Dr. King reminds us that change has always relied on the willingness of our people to keep marching forward together and that unconditional love will have the final word, and that only love can drive out hate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Robert Sivertsen, Mayor of the City of Ketchikan, Alaska, do hereby proclaim from this day forward

January 18, 2021 as Dr. Martin Luther King Day

and encourage all residents to pay tribute to Dr. King and urge all Americans to his call to action for equality, freedom and protection for all. In the words for the great Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

Signed this 21st day of January, 2021

Robert Sivertsen, Mayor

City of Ketchikan, Alaska