

Proclamation

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, in 1994, Congress designated the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday as a national day of volunteer service, and charged AmeriCorps 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 MLK Day is an appropriate way to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., bring our citizens together, and strengthen our communities and nation; and

Whereas, MLK Day offers an opportunity for Americans to give back to their communities on this day, and make an ongoing commitment to service throughout the year; and

Whereas, there are simple ways to give back to our community on MLK Day, January 15, 2024, such as calling an elderly neighbor to check on them; dropping off a non-perishable donation to our local food pantry; brightening someone's day by writing letters to seniors who are living in care facilities; taking up a collection of new and unopened hygiene items for our local homeless shelter; thanking a healthcare worker or buying them a meal; and

Whereas, each of us can and must contribute to making our communities better with increased opportunity for all our citizens.

NOW THEREFORE I, Patty Gregory, Mayor of the City of Belleville, IL, do hereby proclaim **Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 15, 2024**, as a **Day of Service** in Belleville and call upon the people of our city to pay tribute to the life and works of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. through participation in community service on Martin Luther King Jr. Day and throughout the year.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the corporate seal of the City of Belleville to be affixed this 2nd day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-four.



Patty Gregory
Patty Gregory, Mayor
Dated this 2nd day of January, 2024