



King County

---

# PROCLAMATION

---

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month is commemorated annually during the month of February in remembrance of achievements by Black Americans and all people of African descent in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, historian and author Dr. Carter G. Woodson created Negro History Week in 1926 to encourage the study of Black life and history, particularly in the nation's public schools, and the tradition was expanded in 1976 to Black History Month; and

**WHEREAS**, King County acknowledges and rejects the long history of structural racism toward African Americans in the United States, resulting in social and economic inequities that persist today; and

**WHEREAS**, King County's Equity and Social Justice work reflects the County's commitment to advancing racially just policies and practices that create opportunities for everyone to thrive; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1986, the King County Council unanimously voted to re-designate the County as the namesake for the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a man who continues to inspire people and nations to pursue the civic, social, and economic liberties due to people of all races; and

**WHEREAS**, the contributions to science, technology, business, arts, and cultural innovation by African Americans have been essential to the progress of our nation; and

**WHEREAS**, we will continue to honor these accomplishments every month and every day in Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., County, Washington State.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Dow Constantine, Executive of King County, do hereby proclaim the month of February 2017 to be

## **Black History Month**

in King County. I urge all County residents to join in this observance.



Dow Constantine  
King County Executive