

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 14-0007

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s visit to Denver's Park Hill Neighborhood

WHEREAS, as the nation will celebrate the American Federal holiday marking the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., which is observed on the third Monday of January each year, it is a day to reflect on one person's pivotal role in leading nonviolent activism for the civil rights movement, beginning in the mid-1950s until his death on April 4, 1968; and

WHEREAS, Martin Luther King, Jr. continues to be remembered for his work in ending the segregation of African-American citizens in the South and the nation, as well as crafting the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and also receiving the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 in Oslo, Norway; and

WHEREAS, Denver's Park Hill neighborhood also fondly remembers that 50 years ago this month Martin Luther King, Jr. spent an historic three days visiting with various leaders in Denver and the metro area, and delivering powerful messages at two churches in Denver, Macedonia Baptist Church and Montview Boulevard Presbyterian Church where more than 3,000 people came to hear him talk of change and the future, and espousing to all within ear's reach that, "...the problem of racial injustice is a national problem and not a sectional one"; and

WHEREAS, part of the impetus of Dr. King's visit to Park Hill was the neighborhood's position at the forefront of the national movement to integrate communities, from housing to public schools; and

WHEREAS, Park Hill residents, Dick Young (the 1964 Chairman of the Denver Commission on Human Relations and sponsor of Dr. King's visit) and his wife, Lorie, hosted Dr. King and shared his commitment to breaking down racial barriers in our great City and across the nation; and

WHEREAS, Denver churches and organizations are planning various events to mark the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s three-day visit to Denver.

**NOW THEREFORE,
BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:**

Section 1. That the Denver City Council joins Park Hill residents as they celebrate this moment of history in Denver and to remember the work of Martin Luther King, Jr. that created change for all people.

Section 2. That the Denver City Council encourages residents of the City and County of Denver to remember the spirit of Martin Luther King, Jr. in the words he spoke to spur collaboration among all people, stating that "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."

Section 3. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that copies be transmitted to Dick and Lorie Young; Rev. Victor LaMonte Lane, Macedonia Baptist Church; Rev. Ian Gregory Cummins, Montview Boulevard Presbyterian Church.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL January 13, 2014

PRESIDENT