

1 A RESOLUTION honoring the 50th anniversary of Lexington's Martin Luther
2 King Jr. Holiday Celebration.

3 WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. dedicated his life to securing our
4 Nation's fundamental principles of liberty and justice for all by combatting racial
5 segregation; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. King fought tirelessly to end of the oppressive Jim Crow regime of
7 racial segregation codes which unjustly targeted Black Americans, courageously
8 organizing and leading some of the most famous and influential moments in the Civil
9 Rights Movement, including the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott, the 1963 March on
10 Washington, and the historic 1965 march from Selma to Montgomery; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. King's influence can be felt in landmark legislation at both the
12 state and federal level, including the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act
13 of 1965 passed by the United States Congress; and

14 WHEREAS, here in our own Commonwealth, the fruit of Dr. King's labor can be
15 seen in many significant ways, including the passage of the Kentucky Civil Rights Act of
16 1966, which Dr. King called, "The strongest and most comprehensive civil rights bill
17 passed by a southern state"; and

18 WHEREAS, Lexington's Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Celebration is one of the
19 oldest programs in the country. In 1973, five years after Dr. King's tragic assassination
20 on April 4, 1968, the established was founded by Jerry Stevens, the first director of UK's
21 Office of Minority Student Affairs, and Edgar Mack, faculty member in UK's College of
22 Social Work, later joined by program coordinator Chester Grundy; and

23 WHEREAS, the Lexington Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Celebration was
24 originally established not only to elevate the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr., but to
25 establish an undergraduate scholarship in his honor available to high school seniors
26 planning to attend Bluegrass Community and Technical College; and

27 WHEREAS, in the mid-1980s, Dr. William C. Parker, the Vice Chancellor for

1 Minority Affairs, expanded on the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Celebration by
2 establishing a partnership with the Office of the Mayor, thereby elevating the program to
3 a city-wide event; and

4 WHEREAS, public support for the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Celebration
5 increased steadily, with participation coming from the campus as well as the greater
6 central Kentucky community, including Lexington-area churches, universities,
7 businesses, nonprofit organizations, youth groups, social justice organizations, fraternities
8 and sororities, and other key community members; and

9 WHEREAS, past keynote speakers at Lexington's Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
10 Celebration have included prominent civil rights leaders, such as Ossie Davis, Susan
11 Taylor, Rev. C.T. Vivian, Danny Glover, Dr. Freeman Hrabowski, U.S. Congressman
12 Ron Dellums, U.S. Senator Raphael Warnock, Dr. Otis Moss III, Tim Wise, Reverend
13 James Lawson, Dr. Renita Weems, Dr. Julianne Malveaux, Dr. Bernice Reagon, Dr.
14 Na'im Akbar, Daniel Beaty, and other important voices; and

15 WHEREAS, the 50th anniversary of Lexington's Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
16 Celebration will be observed on January 16, 2023, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the
17 Central Bank Center in Lexington;

18 NOW, THEREFORE,

19 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***
20 ***Kentucky:***

21 ➡Section 1. The members of the Senate, individually and collectively, hereby
22 recognize Lexington's 50th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Celebration, and urge
23 all Kentuckians to shape their lives by those holy tenets of kindness, peace, and equality.

24 ➡Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
25 Resolution to Senator Reginald Thomas.