



# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was the most important leader of the civil rights movement in the United States, and under his leadership historic reforms were made; and

**WHEREAS**, he was committed to his vision of a society where color did not matter; he believed his vision was important enough to die for, and he put his life on the line every day to make this great country a vibrant, multiracial nation united in justice; and

**WHEREAS**, he earned a Ph.D. in Theology from Boston University, and he lived his life with a moral conviction of love and peace; he preached a gospel of non-violence, and his commitment to make change through peace earned him the Nobel Peace Prize; and

**WHEREAS**, each year, his life, his dreams, and his achievements are commemorated in intercultural cooperation, uniting people from different cultural backgrounds on a day of celebration for all people everywhere; and

**WHEREAS**, we are indebted to Dr. King for the sacrifices he made; he won great victories over prejudice, and his legacy will live on and inspire generations to come.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ben Marciano**, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Ocala, Florida, do hereby proclaim January 15, 2024, as

## **MARION COUNTY'S DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMEMORATION DAY**

in Ocala and I urge all residents to use this opportunity to make a personal commitment to renew the dream and carry forward the vision of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and to join me in celebration of Dr. King's contribution to the struggle for peace and freedom.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Ocala, Florida, to be affixed this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of January 2024.

Ben Marciano, Mayor  
City of Ocala

