

RECOGNITION

WHEREAS, on August 28, 1963, approximately 250,000 people of all races, faiths, beliefs, and backgrounds from throughout the nation assembled in the National Mall in Washington, D.C., in a march for civil rights; and

WHEREAS, the ideas and images cast that day electrified the nation and catalyzed the burgeoning movement for civil rights, placing the issue at the top of the national agenda; and

WHEREAS, the central author of those images, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in his speech that became known as the “I Have A Dream” speech, shook the nation out of its complacency with regard to the status of millions of its African American and poor citizens who were suffering under the burdens of segregation, discrimination, and second-class citizenship; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King’s words that day placed in high relief the facts and the consequences of the nation’s choices regarding the status of its downtrodden; and

WHEREAS, the March on Washington was part of a series of events that helped end “American Apartheid,” culminating in the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1965 Voting Rights Act; and

WHEREAS, in the half-century since, African-Americans have been given the opportunity to become full citizens of the country they live in, and the nation has witnessed advancements denied to them in the past, including increases in home ownership, educational opportunities, and representation in every cultural, economic, social, educational, and political institution; and

WHEREAS, even as we celebrate these achievements, we continue to recognize and work toward the ideals and goals set out by Dr. King that we have not achieved yet, so that one day, all people will judged “not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character;”

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Metropolitan King County Council and King County Executive, recognize and celebrate the

Golden Anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom

and encourage everyone to continue to assist the United States get closer to Dr. King’s “Beloved Community,” and we remember the men and women of all races and backgrounds who played a role in the March on the Mall.

DATED this nineteenth day of August, 2013.