PROCLAMATION
Martin Luther King Day
January 16, 2023

WHEREAS, January 16th has been established as a day to celebrate and honor the accomplishments of Martin Luther King Jr., a great leader in the movement for equal rights for all Americans; and

WHEREAS, Martin Luther King was born January 15, 1929 to the Reverend Martin Luther King, Sr. and Alberta Williams King; and

WHEREAS, in 1955, he was recruited to serve as spokesman for the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which was a campaign by the African-American population of Montgomery, Alabama to force integration of the city's bus lines. After 381 days of nearly universal participation by the black community, many of whom had to walk miles to work each day as a result, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that racial segregation in transportation was unconstitutional; and

WHEREAS, in 1957, Dr. King was elected president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), an organization meant to provide new leadership for the now burgeoning civil rights movement. He would serve as head of the SCLC until his assassination in 1968, a period during which he would emerge as the most important social leader of the modern American civil rights movement; and

WHEREAS, in 1963, he led a coalition of numerous civil rights groups in a nonviolent campaign aimed at Birmingham, Alabama, which at the time was described as the "most segregated city in America." The subsequent brutality of the city's police, illustrated most vividly by television images of young blacks being assaulted by dogs and water hoses, led to a national outrage resulting in a push for unprecedented civil rights legislation. It was during this campaign that Dr. King drafted the "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" which, as the manifesto of Dr. King's philosophy and tactics, is today required reading in universities worldwide; and

WHEREAS, later in 1963, Dr. King was one of the driving forces behind the March for Jobs and Freedom, more commonly known as the "March on Washington," which drew over a quarter-million people to the national mall. It was at this march that Dr. King delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech, which cemented his status as a social change leader and helped inspire the nation to act on civil rights. Dr. King was later named Time magazine's "Man of the Year"; and

WHEREAS, in 1964, at 35 years old, Martin Luther King, Jr. became the youngest person to win the Nobel Peace Prize. His acceptance speech in Oslo is thought by many to be among the most powerful remarks ever delivered at the event, climaxing at one point with the oft-quoted phrase "I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right temporarily defeated is stronger than evil triumphant." Also in 1964, partly due to the March on Washington, Congress passed the landmark Civil Rights Act, essentially eliminating racial segregation in the United States. The legislation made it illegal to discriminate against blacks or other minorities in hiring, public accommodations, education or transportation, areas which at the time were still very racially-divided in many places; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s decade-and-a-half of social leadership ended abruptly and tragically on April 4th, 1968, when he was assassinated at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee. Dr. King's body was returned to his hometown of Atlanta, Georgia, where his funeral ceremony was attended by high-level leaders of all races and political stripes; and

WHEREAS, between 1965 and 1968, Dr. King shifted his focus toward economic justice – which he highlighted by leading several campaigns in Chicago, Illinois – and international peace – which he championed by speaking out strongly against the Vietnam War. His work in these years culminated in the "Poor Peoples Campaign," which was a broad effort to assemble a multiracial coalition of impoverished Americans who would advocate for economic change;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Alameda Unified School District Board of Education hereby recognizes January 16, 2023 as Martin Luther King Day.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of January 2023.

AYES:_____ MEMBERS:_____

NOES:_____ MEMBERS:_____

ABSENT:_____ MEMBERS:_____

_____
Heather Little, President
Board of Education
Alameda Unified School District
Alameda County, State of California

ATTEST:
By: _____
Pasquale Scuderi, Secretary
Board of Education
Alameda Unified School District
Alameda County, State of California