



King County

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on November 8, 1961, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. arrived in Seattle at the invitation of Rev. Dr. Samuel Berry McKinney of Mount Zion Baptist Church, his Morehouse College classmate, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity brother, and friend; and

WHEREAS, the powerful civil rights leader and minister was received enthusiastically by audiences at the UW's Meany Hall, at Garfield High School (where he spoke twice, as the gym could not accommodate all the students who sought to hear him and be in his presence), at the Eagles Auditorium, and at Temple de Hirsch; and

WHEREAS, the visit proved controversial, as Dr. King had originally planned to speak at First Presbyterian Church rather than Temple de Hirsch, but the agreement to rent the church sanctuary was canceled shortly before the event; and

WHEREAS, in 1986, the King County Council approved an ordinance declaring Dr. King to be the county's official namesake, and in 2005, state legislation was approved to memorialize the Council's decision – County Councilmember Larry Gossett led the effort to change the County's logo to a design depicting Dr. King; and

WHEREAS, on November 6, 7, and 8, 2021, the Northwest African American Museum is sponsoring a three-day commemoration known as "MLK-60" to mark the 60th Anniversary of Dr. King's historic and only visit to Seattle, which includes a call to action, inclusion and empowerment, and culminates in an address by Dr. King's son, Martin Luther King, III, and a call to renew the community's commitment to continuing Dr. King's work.

WHEREAS, King County government re-commits today and every day to continuing Dr. King's work until it becomes an anti-racist/pro-equity organization serving a region where all can thrive

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dow Constantine, Executive of King County, do hereby proclaim the week of November 6, 2021 to November 13, 2021 to be

MLK-60 Week

in King County. I encourage all residents to recognize this week and to commit themselves to continuing the work of Dr. King.



Dow Constantine
King County Executive