



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

100 East Erie Street
Chicago, IL 60611

Legislation Text

File #: 18-0072, **Version:** 1

RESOLUTION FOR BOARD MEETING OF JANUARY 18, 2018

RESOLUTION sponsored by the Board of Commissioners honoring the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
(As Revised)

WHEREAS, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was born January 15, 1929 and became a revered leader in the civil rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s and an American icon; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King dedicated his life to bringing about positive social and political change through nonviolent discourse and demonstration; and

WHEREAS, during a tumultuous time in our history, Dr. King brought his message of equality and justice for all and service to others to the people of this great Nation; and

WHEREAS, on August 28, 1963, Dr. King delivered his now famous and oft-quoted "I Have A Dream" speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, which has inspired and emboldened the spirits of those fighting against poverty, racism, intolerance and inequality; and

WHEREAS, passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was the result of the hard work and dedication of Dr. King and every citizen who supported and joined him in the streets and marched for justice and equality; and

WHEREAS, in 1964, Dr. King became the youngest person at that time to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for his work to end segregation and racial discrimination through nonviolent means; and

WHEREAS, making the ultimate sacrifice for his beliefs, Dr. King was assassinated on April 4, 1968; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1977 and the Congressional Gold Medal in 2004; and

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois was the first state in the nation to recognize Dr. King with a holiday in 1973; and

WHEREAS, a national holiday honoring Dr. King was first observed on January 20, 1986 and continues to be observed annually throughout the country and at the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, Congress passed the King Holiday and Service Act to transform the Martin Luther King Holiday into a national day of service recognizing Dr. King's legacy of volunteerism, interracial cooperation and youth anti-violence initiatives by encouraging all Americans to volunteer and participate in community building and revitalization and other service projects throughout the Nation; and

WHEREAS, the Martin Luther King Holiday has been observed in over 100 countries; and

WHEREAS, it is the distinct pleasure of the Board of Commissioners to present this resolution to Lewis Myers, Jr., one of the most outstanding civil/human rights lawyers in the country; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Myers has dedicated his life to fighting for individual civil and human rights; and

WHEREAS, his fight began when he was a high school student leader and elected as the NAACP Youth Council President (Houston); and

WHEREAS, he continued this fight through various projects and initiatives including membership on the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee at Tennessee State University and with the North Mississippi Rural Legal Services in Oxford, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Myers had the privilege of working with Dr. King through his efforts as a student with the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee and was also with Dr. King when he spoke in Washington, DC, two months before his assassination; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Myers has served as General Counsel for several national civil rights leaders, including Minister Louis Farrakhan, Reverend Jesse L. Jackson and Reverend Al Sharpton; and

WHEREAS, it is a privilege and honor for the Board of Commissioners to present this resolution to Lewis Myers, Jr.; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Board of Commissioners of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, on behalf of ourselves and staff, do hereby recognize and honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by urging the staff of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, residents of Cook County, and citizens of the State of Illinois to continue the good work of Dr. King in making our world a place where equality and justice prevail and freedom and peace reign; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be spread upon the permanent Record of Proceedings of the Board of Commissioners of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, and that a copy of same, suitably engrossed, be presented to Lewis Myers, Jr.

Dated: January 18, 2018

Approved: MARIYANA T. SPYROPOULOS, President; BARBARA J. MCGOWAN, Vice President; FRANK AVILA, Chairman, Committee on Finance; MARTIN J. DURKAN; JOSINA MORITA; DEBRA SHORE; KARI K. STEELE; DAVID J. WALSH; Commissioners of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Approved as to Form and Legality: Susan T. Morakalis, General Counsel, STM:BK:bh