Santa Fe County Proclamation

PROCLAIMING MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2026, AS "DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY" AND TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026, AS "NATIONAL DAY OF RACIAL HEALING"

Introduced by: Commissioner Lisa Cacari Stone

SFC CLERK RECORDED 01/29/2026

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a visionary leader whose courage, moral clarity, and commitment to nonviolence advanced the civil rights movement and helped transform the social, political, and moral fabric of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King's life and teachings continue to inspire generations to work toward justice, equality, dignity, and opportunity for all people, reminding us that freedom, fairness, and democracy require both conscience and collective action; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of Dr. King's enduring contributions to civil rights and social justice, in 1983 the United States Congress established Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a federal holiday, observed on the third Monday in January beginning in 1986 as a day of remembrance, reflection, and service; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Mexico formally observes Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a legal holiday, and in 1987 reaffirmed its observance for state employees on the third Monday in January following public dialogue and deliberation regarding its importance to the State's civic values; and

WHEREAS, in Santa Fe County, Martin Luther King Jr. Day has long been recognized through the official closure of County administrative offices and facilities, honoring Dr. King's advocacy for civil rights and encouraging residents to participate in community observances, service activities, and commemorations, including events hosted by local organizations and community partners; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County is strengthened by its diverse peoples, cultures, histories, and traditions, and affirms the values of respect, service, inclusion, and shared responsibility that are central to Dr. King's vision of a beloved community; and

WHEREAS, leaders and elders of the Civil Rights Movement, including Reverend Jesse Jackson, have reminded us that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream was never static, but a living call to action – encompassing the right to vote, open and fair housing, economic justice, peace, and full participation in civic life – and that this dream must continue to evolve as our nation confronts new and enduring challenges; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day calls each generation not only to remember history, but to renew its commitment to justice through action – by strengthening democratic participation, expanding opportunity, advancing equity, and working together across differences to build communities where all people can thrive; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County recognizes that federal actions and proposals that reduce essential public services, dismantle equity efforts, and weaken protections for land and the environment disproportionately harm vulnerable and underserved communities; and that County government, as the level of government closest to the people, has a responsibility to act as a frontline instrument of continuing the vision of Dr. Martin Luther King; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Racial Healing and recognition of the Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation (TRHT) framework are observed annually on the Tuesday following Martin Luther

King Jr. Day, and in 2026 will be observed on January 20, providing an opportunity for Santa Fe County to move from commitment to action and to continue to use policy to effect meaningful change toward health, racial equity, and justice; and

WHEREAS, racial healing is an ongoing, inclusive process that repairs harm, strengthens relationships, and transforms institutions to affirm the inherent dignity, humanity, and worth of all people.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2026, AS:

"DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY"

AND, TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026, AS:

"NATIONAL DAY OF RACIAL HEALING"

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that the Board encourages residents, County employees, community organizations, educators, faith communities, and civic leaders to honor Dr. King's legacy through service, learning, dialogue, and actions that promote justice, equity, compassion, and mutual respect.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that Santa Fe County reaffirms its commitment to the principles Dr. King championed and to building a community where all people are treated with dignity, differences are respected, and opportunity is shared.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that Santa Fe County recognizes racial healing as an ongoing process of learning, accountability, relationship-building, and institutional transformation. The County also affirms its responsibility to lead with integrity, humility, and care in service to all residents – ensuring that County government advances the health, safety, and well-being of all people; protects land, water, culture, and community; delivers services in a fair, effective, and transparent manner; and fosters a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable future for present and future generations, consistent with the vision of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

APPROVED, ADOPTED, AND PASSED ON THIS 13th DAY OF JANUARY, 2026.

Camilla Bustamante, Chair
Commissioner District 3

Lisa Cacari Stone, Vice Chair
Commissioner District 2

Justin S. Greene
Commissioner District 1

Adam Fulton Johnson
Commissioner District 4

Hank Hughes
Commissioner District 5

Gregory S. Shaffer
Santa Fe County Manager

SFC CLERK RECORDED 01/29/2026

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Walker Boyd
Santa Fe County Attorney

ATTESTATION:

Katharine E. Clark
Santa Fe County Clerk

SFC CLERK RECORDED 01/29/2026