



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kent County to Honor the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

GRAND RAPIDS – Kent County's Board of Commissioners, Administrator's Office and Cultural Insight Council are proud to host an event in memory of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on the 50th Anniversary of his assassination. "Honoring the Dream" will bring the community together to demonstrate the unity and inclusion Kent County embraces. The event will be open to the public and held on Calder Plaza on April 4, 2018 starting at noon.

"For some of us, the terrible, tragic images of April 4, 1968 are forever etched into our minds," said Wayman Britt, Kent County Administrator/Controller. "We - as a society - have grown over the past fifty years. Unfortunately, we still see racism, divisiveness, and prejudice today. The goal of this special event is to bring awareness of the life and work of Dr. King and to reflect on how we all can strive to eliminate hatred and bigotry."

The event was the idea of the Cultural Insight Council (CIC), a self-directed workgroup of more than two dozen individuals from County departments. "We wanted to gather as a community and spend a few minutes reflecting on the lessons of Dr. King's life and death," said Darius Quinn, Human Resources Manager and Chair of the CIC, which was formed in 2001. "The CIC is dedicated to providing an environment where diversity, equity and inclusion are valued. This event is a reflection of the standard the County staff strives to achieve every day."

The Board of Commissioners have voiced support for the King legacy and will present a Proclamation during the event. "Kent County is ethnically and racially diverse," noted Jim Saalfeld, Kent County Board Chair. "Therefore, our ability to serve the public in a culturally-competent manner is critical to what we are called to do. I am proud of the work of the CIC and how the employees of Kent County are willing to address this important aspect of public service."

(MEDIA NOTE: Event Flyer is attached.)

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