



**VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK**  
**Village Commission Agenda Report**

**#Item 13.b**

**REGULAR MEETING**

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**TO:** Honorable Mayor & Members of the  
Biscayne Park Village Commission

**FROM:** Commissioner Roxanna Ross

**DATE:** January 10, 2017

**TITLE:** Resolution proclaiming January 16, 207 Martin Luther King Day for  
Community Service

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**Request**

**RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COMMISSION OF THE VILLAGE OF  
BISCAYNE PARK PROCLAIMING JANUARY 16, 2016 MARTIN LUTHER  
KING DAY A DAY FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE AND FUNDING FOR  
VILLAGE PEACE POLE IN THE VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK**

**Background**

Martin Luther King Day is a federal holiday, recognized nationwide as a celebration of service and giving back to the community, to honor Dr. King and celebrate his gift of communicating a message of peace, unity and love.

The Martin Luther King Day of Service has in the last several years played a role in supporting improvements to Village greenspaces through resident participation in planting trees and landscaping. The occasion has also evolved into an opportunity to engage neighbors and raise funds to beautify and build pride in our community.

This year I propose that the Village establish a lasting symbol to communicate Dr. King's message by commissioning and installing a sculptured Village Peace Pole and landscaping in the vicinity of Village Hall, the Log Cabin and Village Commons. Village resident, artist wood carver, Charles Easton has offered, with the help of other talented Village residents and staff, to design, create and install a Village Peace Pole, borrowing from the traditional Peace Pole Project to promote multicultural understanding and world peace, and adding interactive community collaborative messaging that speaks of PEACE.

Commissioner Ross pledges a challenge grant to encourage donations in support of the Village Peace Pole and landscaping in the vicinity of Village Hall, the Log Cabin and Village Commons, matching \$1 (up to \$250) for every \$10 of donations collected for the King Day of Service. Residents are also encouraged to help neighbors with home safety and beautification projects during the King Holiday weekend in the spirit of Dr. King's words, "If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way."

It is in the best interest of our residents and our Village to support community participation, peace, unity, love and beautification.

### **Resource Impact**

The time and labor to be expended by Village administration and public works in support of the project is worth continuing enhancement of our greenspaces, supporting a sense of *PLACE* and the message of *PEACE*. A challenge grant and anticipated donations will offset the cost of these improvements to the Village.

### **Request**

Upon review for sufficiency by our Village Attorney, Commissioner Ross recommends approval.

### **Attachments:**

- Resolution draft

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Prepared by: Commissioner Roxanna Ross

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017 - \_\_\_\_\_**

**RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COMMISSION OF THE VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK PROCLAIMING JANUARY 16, 2017 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY A DAY FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE AND FUNDING FOR VILLAGE PEACE POLE IN THE VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK**

WHEREAS Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. devoted his life to advancing equality, social justice and opportunity for all, and challenged all Americans to participate in the never-ending work of building a more perfect union; and

WHEREAS President Ronald Reagan signed a bill in 1983 creating a federal holiday observed in January every year to honor Dr. King's birthday, life and work; President Bill Clinton established the King Holiday and Service Act in 1994, promoting a day of citizen action and volunteer service bringing attention to Dr. King's teachings; and, since enactment millions of Americans have been inspired to serve their communities celebrating the King Holiday; and

WHEREAS it is appropriate to raise awareness, strengthen our commitment to each other in service of community, while celebrating Dr. King's leadership and gift of communicating a message of peace, unity and love; and

WHEREAS the King Holiday offers an opportunity for everyone to contribute to our communities, and to make ongoing commitments of service beyond the King Holiday weekend and throughout the year; and

WHEREAS Village residents have cooperatively engaged in King Holiday improvements to the community in past years, and the Village encourages its residents to apply that success to helping neighbors this King Holiday weekend with home safety and beautification projects in the spirit of Dr. King's words, "If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way."

WHEREAS in 2017 a lasting symbol is proposed for the King Holiday by way of commissioning and installing a sculptured community collaborative messaging pole of peace – a Village Peace Pole – and landscaping in the vicinity of Village Hall, the Log Cabin and Village Commons; and,

WHEREAS the concept of a Village Peace Pole borrows from the traditional Peace Pole Project to promote multicultural understanding and world peace, and adds the idea of Village resident artist and woodcarver Charles Easton, in collaborations with other Village artists, to encourage community participation in creating and displaying Village residents' artistic expressions of PEACE; and,

WHEREAS Rox Ross, a Commissioner of the Village of Biscayne Park, who shares a birthday with Dr. King encourages a King Day celebration in the Village by hands-on *small great things* helping neighbors, and challenges community fundraising seeded by a \$250 donation for a Village Peace Pole and landscaping.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK, FLORIDA, that all residents and friends of the Village of Biscayne Park have an opportunity to participate, by hands-on assistance to neighbors in need, and by monetary contribution toward the Village Peace Pole.

With a goal of \$2,500 for the project, Commissioner Rox Ross encourages donations and to maximize the impact of YOUR generous gift in support of these initiatives, Rox pledges a challenge grant, matching \$1 (up to \$250) to every \$10 donation collected.

THEREUPON, declared that the resolution was duly passed and approved on \_\_\_\_\_