

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND ALDERMEN  
OF THE CITY OF SAVANNAH  
RENAMING THE SAVANNAH CIVIC CENTER TO THE  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CIVIC CENTER**

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Aldermen recognize that the Savannah Civic Center has served as the site of significant milestones for residents of and visitors to the City of Savannah since its construction in 1972; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 5, 1984, the Mayor and Aldermen approved a request from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by naming the Civic Center Arena in his memory; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 27, 2024, the Mayor and Aldermen approved a Resolution authorizing the removal of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Arena and renovation of the Johnny Mercer Theatre, Ballroom, and Community Meeting Rooms; and

**WHEREAS**, that Resolution further directed the City Manager to prepare and execute a plan that retains the name and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Aldermen desire to honor Dr. King's profound national and local legacy by extending the recognition previously granted to the Arena to the entirety of the Civic Center facility; and

**WHEREAS**, the newly named Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Civic Center will include a comprehensively renovated facility that will continue to serve residents and visitors for generations to come; and

**WHEREAS**, during a New Year's Day address on January 1, 1964 in Savannah, Dr. King proclaimed, "*Savannah...the most integrated city south of the Mason-Dixon line,*" reflecting the city's potential as a symbol of inclusion and community progress; and

**WHEREAS**, renaming the Savannah Civic Center honors Dr. King's legacy and commemorates the memories and community events that have taken place within the Martin Luther King, Jr. Arena; and

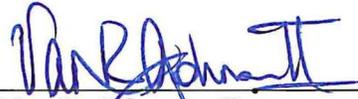
**WHEREAS**, by renaming the Savannah Civic Center in Dr. King's honor, the City of Savannah reaffirms its commitment to preserving his legacy, inspiring future generations, and ensuring that this civic space reflects the values of unity, justice, and equality that Dr. King championed.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah hereby rename the Savannah Civic Center the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Civic Center.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Manager is authorized and directed to take

all necessary steps to implement this renaming, including updating signage, communications, records, and public materials to reflect the new name.

**ADOPTED AND APPROVED** by the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah, Georgia on this the 11<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2025.

  
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Van R. Johnson, II  
Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Mark Massey  
Clerk of Council

