



Whereas, the word “justice” appears in many of the United States’ most cherished documents to include the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Pledge of Allegiance; and

Whereas, the pursuit of justice assures a fair society, and

Whereas, the National Alliance of Faith and Justice founded the national observance of Justice Sunday™ to honor the role of Dr. King as a clergy and drum major for justice and to commemorate the spirit and selfless acts of thousands of diverse faith and community volunteers who fought and continue to preserve human dignity and the quest for social change; and

Whereas, the national observance of Justice Sunday™ on January 17, 2016, offers a benchmark to launch or renew efforts to build mutual respect and pledge to work together to ensure all children retain and maximize access to the pencil (education) rather than the pen(itentiary);

Whereas, Congress, in 1994, *passed* the King Holiday and Service Act which directed the Corporation for National and Community Service to support a national day of service; and

Whereas, the theme of Justice Sunday™ 2016, “*A Charge To Keep We Have: Reflect, Renew, and Reform*” challenges all to facilitate assistance in transition and healing (f.a.i.t.h) before and beyond the MLK National Day of Service; and

Whereas, January is National Mentoring Month during which NAFJ partners with the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency, institutions of faith and education, municipalities and community stakeholders to encourage mentoring as a service priority, and

Whereas, Justice Sunday™ 2016 will serve as a national day of recruitment and subsequent screening and training for caring adults and tutors to help youth to reach their full potential;

Whereas, 2016 recognizes the centennial of the National Park Service;

Whereas, NAFJ encourages the use of National Park Service sites as resources to promote civic dialog and interpretation of relevant themes such as civil rights; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I (Name of Mayor or Commissioner), Mayor of (Name of Town/City/County), do hereby join with NAFJ and its local affiliate in urging all citizens to honor change through a broader commitment to volunteerism and service around pressing social issues.

DRAFT LANGUAGE