

**The City of St. Cloud, Florida**

*Proclamation*

*WHEREAS, early St. Cloud, Florida was recognized as a sundown town, a term used to describe communities that enforced racial segregation and exclusion, often through discriminatory laws, social practices, or unwritten rules; and*

*WHEREAS, the history of St. Cloud, marked by challenges and growth, has left a lasting impact on citizens across the city; and*

*WHEREAS, while its past includes periods of exclusion and segregation, today, St. Cloud is moving forward with a renewed commitment to positive unity; and*

*WHEREAS, the vibrant, diverse community St. Cloud is today embraces inclusivity and welcomes all residents, businesses, and visitors; and*

*WHEREAS, this dynamic shift has enriched the cultural fabric of the city and positioned it as a thriving community where different perspectives and backgrounds come together to build a stronger, more connected community; and*

*WHEREAS, January 15, 1929, is the birth date of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., one of the most influential voices for peace, unity, and human rights in world history; and*

*WHEREAS, Dr. King's words and actions remain a beacon of hope and courage, inspiring people worldwide to strive for unity in the face of division; and*

*WHEREAS, Dr. King's teachings remind us that progress is possible through dialogue and collective action; and*

*WHEREAS, his legacy serves as a call to honor the dignity and humanity of all people;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jennifer A. Paul, Council Member, along with the City Council of the City of St. Cloud, Florida, do hereby rise together, casting aside the darkness of our city's former reputation, to joyfully declare on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2025, that St. Cloud is now*

*A place of hope, opportunity, and new beginnings, shining brightly on all citizens.*



*In witness whereof I hereunto set my hand and cause this seal to be affixed.*

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Jennifer A. Paul*  
*1/9/2025*