RESOLUTION NO. ______

A RESOLUTION TO ASK THE LITTLE ROCK DELEGATION TO THE 91ST ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO SPONSOR LEGISLATION TO REPEAL THE REFERENCE TO A JANUARY HOLIDAY IN HONOR OF THE BIRTHDAY OF ROBERT E. LEE SO IT WILL BE EXCLUSIVELY IN HONOR OF THE BIRTHDAY OF THE REVEREND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 1-5-101 (a) (2) states that the third Monday in January shall be celebrated as the birthday of Robert E. Lee, a General in charge of the Army of Northern Virginia during the American Civil War, and as the birthday of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a central force in the American Civil Rights Movement; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-16-107 (a) states that January 19th shall be celebrated as a patriotic holiday in honor of the birthday of Robert E. Lee; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 14-43-601 (a) (1) (G), the setting of State Holidays is a matter of state concern that cannot be changed or modified by a local ordinance; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Little Rock, Arkansas, thinks that it is more appropriate to honor the work of Dr. King, and that it is preferable to no longer honor with a holiday the events or persons involved in the Civil War, especially since one outcome of that War was to recognize this Country as one United States, no longer to be referred to separately as “these United States,”; and,

WHEREAS, because the basis for a State Holiday is something that can only be changed by an Act of the General Assembly;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CITY OF LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS:

Section 1. The Mayor and Members of the Board of Directors of the City of Little Rock, Arkansas, respectfully request that the Little Rock delegation to the 91st Arkansas General Assembly introduce and pursue to adoption legislation that refers only to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., for a holiday in January to commemorate his birthday, and to remove any reference to General Robert E. Lee.

Section 2. The Mayor and City Clerk as directed to send copies of this resolution to the members of the Little Rock delegation to the 91st General Assembly.

Section 4. Severability. In the event any title, section, paragraph, item, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this resolution is declared or adjudged to be invalid or unconstitutional, such declaration or adjudication shall not affect the remaining portions of the resolution which shall remain in full force and effect.
as if the portion so declared or adjudged invalid or unconstitutional were not originally a part of the resolution.

Section 5. Repealer. All laws, ordinances, resolutions, or parts of the same, that are inconsistent with the provisions of this resolution, are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

ADOPTED: December 6, 2016

ATTEST:  

_____________________________________  ______________________________________  

Susan Langley, City Clerk                      Mark Stodola, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

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Thomas M. Carpenter, City Attorney

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