Proclamation

ROCKVILLE · MARYLAND

WHEREAS, Harriet Tubman (born Araminta Ross) was born around 1822 on a plantation in Dorchester County, Maryland, and she had eight brothers and sisters, but the realities of slavery eventually forced the family apart; and

WHEREAS, while enslaved in Dorchester County, Maryland, Harriet was beaten and whipped by various masters as a child and suffered emotional and physical scars, and carried the effects throughout her life; and

WHEREAS, in 1849, Harriet Tubman escaped to Philadelphia, and then returned to Maryland to rescue her family soon after, slowly, one group at a time, she brought relatives out of the state and eventually guided other enslaved people to freedom, utilizing the Underground Railroad; and

WHEREAS, traveling by night and in extreme secrecy, Tubman (or ***"Moses"***, as she was called) "never lost a passenger," and after the Fugitive Slave act of 1850 was passed, she helped guide fugitives farther north into (Canada) and helped newly freed enslaved people to find work. Harriet Tubman met John Brown in 1858, and helped him plan and recruit supporters for his 1859 Raid on Harpers Ferry; and

WHEREAS, when the Civil War began, Harriet Tubman worked for the Union Army as a cook and a nurse, and then as an armed scout and a spy, as well as being the first woman to lead an armed expedition in the war; and

WHEREAS, after the Civil War, Harriet Tubman retired to the family home on property she had purchased in 1859, in Auburn, New York, where she cared for her aging parents; and

WHEREAS, Harriet Tubman was active in the women's suffrage movement until illness overtook her, and she had to be admitted to a home for elderly African Americans that she had helped to establish years earlier; and

WHEREAS, Harriet Tubman became an icon of courage, resilience, determination, and freedom, and on March 9, 1990, President George Bush Sr. proclaimed March 10 as a national holiday to honor her on her birthday.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mayor and Council, of the City of Rockville, Maryland, do hereby proclaim **March 10, 2026**, as **Harriet Tubman Day** and call upon the people of Rockville to observe this day and help our families, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and leaders to understand the value of Harriet Tubman's service and life to Maryland and to America.

Monique Ashton, Mayor

Kate Fulton, Councilmember

Izola (Zola) Shaw, Councilmember

Barry Jackson, Councilmember

Marissa Valeri, Councilmember

David Myles, Councilmember

Adam Van Grack Councilmember

March 2, 2026