



WHEREAS, Kwanzaa is an annual celebration of African American culture, born out of the turbulent civil rights era of the 1960s; and

WHEREAS, Kwanzaa was created by Dr. Maulana Karenga, who first celebrated it in 1966, it was derived from African harvest festival traditions from various parts of Africa, including West and Southern Africa; and

WHEREAS, Kwanzaa is observed for 7 days, from December 26 through January 1; and

WHEREAS, the name Kwanzaa derives from the Swahili phrase *matunda ya kwanza*, which means, "First Fruits;" and

WHEREAS, the seven/principles days of Kwanzaa are: Day 1- **Umoja** (Unity) Day 2 – **Kujichagulia** (Self-Determination), Day 3 – **Ujima** (Collective Work and Responsibility), Day 4 – **Ujamaa** (Cooperative Economics), Day 5 – **Nia** (Purpose), Day 6 – **Kuumba** (Creativity), Day 7 – **Imani** (Faith); and

WHEREAS, on the seventh day of the celebration, gifts are given to encourage growth, achievement, and success. Handmade or culturally significant gifts are exchanged to promote self-determination, purpose, creativity, and love.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, hereby proclaim and observe December 26, 2025, through January 1, 2026, as **Kwanzaa** in Rockville, and invite all residents to understand its principles and enjoy the celebration of the "First Fruits" of the year, and to practice the seven principles all year round. The City encourages everyone to share this festive season and to spread love to all residents of Rockville and beyond.




Monique Ashton, Mayor


Kate Fulton, Councilmember


Izola (Zola) Shaw, Councilmember


Barry Jackson, Councilmember


Marissa Valeri, Councilmember


David Myles, Councilmember


Adam Van Grack, Councilmember

December 1, 2025