

Proclamation



WHEREAS, on November 2, 1983, a bill was signed into law, making the third Monday in January a federal holiday to honor and commemorate the incredible life and legacy of the **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., dedicated his life to peaceful, non-violent social change, the struggle for equality of all people, irrespective of their race, ethnicity, religion or color; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., became an activist by organizing and leading the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which lasted 382 days, and Dr. King was arrested nearly 30 times throughout his life, including for his role in the Montgomery Bus Boycott, during a sit-in in Atlanta, and for speeding; and

WHEREAS, in 1964, at the age of 35, Dr. King became the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for his nonviolent struggle against racial oppression and tyranny, and this helped to strengthen Dr. King's resolve to continue to work tirelessly and courageously for peace, justice, racial equity, and fairness; and

WHEREAS, we can all learn from Dr. King's words: *"Make a career of humanity. Commit yourself to the noble struggle for equal rights. You will make a better person of yourself, a greater nation of your country, and a finer world to live in."*

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mayor and Council, of the City of Rockville, Maryland, do hereby proclaim **January 19, 2026**, as **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day** in Rockville, Maryland, and call upon the residents of Rockville to observe this day by helping our families, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and leaders to better understand the value of providing grace, peace, dignity, tolerance and respect to everyone equally.



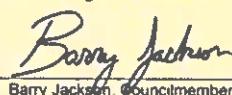
Minique Ashton, Mayor



Kate Fulton, Councilmember



Izola (Zola) Shaw, Councilmember



Barry Jackson, Councilmember



Marissa Valen, Councilmember



David Myles, Councilmember



Adam Van Gack Councilmember

January 5, 2026