

Proclamation



WHEREAS, there are nearly 10,000 rare diseases and conditions considered rare (each affecting fewer than 200,000 Americans) in the United States, according to the National Institutes of Health (NIH); and

WHEREAS, Rare Disease Day is the opportunity to advocate for disease care as a human rights priority at local, national, and international levels; and

WHEREAS, many rare diseases are serious and debilitating conditions that have a significant impact on the lives of those affected; and

WHEREAS, while more than 450 drugs and biologics have been approved for the treatment of rare diseases according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), millions of Americans still have rare diseases for which there is no approved treatment; and

WHEREAS, individuals and families affected by rare diseases often experience problems such as diagnosis delay, difficulty finding a medical expert, and lack of access to treatments; and

WHEREAS, while the public is familiar with some rare diseases such as "Lou Gehrig's disease" and sympathetic to those affected, many patients and families affected by less widely known rare diseases bear a large share of the burden of funding research and raising public awareness to support the search for treatments; and

WHEREAS, thousands of residents of Maryland are among those affected by rare diseases, since nearly one in 10 Americans has a rare disease.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mayor and Council of Rockville do hereby proclaim **February 28, 2026**, as **Rare Disease Day**, and encourage the Rockville community to learn more about rare diseases through resources such as the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD).



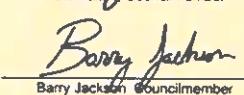
Monique Ashton, Mayor



Kate Fulton, Councilmember



Izola (Zola) Shaw, Councilmember



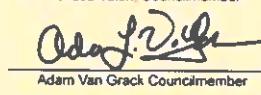
Barry Jackson, Councilmember



Marissa Valen, Councilmember



David Myles, Councilmember



Adam Van Gack, Councilmember

February 2, 2026