



**WHEREAS, World Refugee Day** is an annual commemoration adopted by the United Nations in 2000 to honor and raise awareness of refugees; and

**WHEREAS,** more than 122.6 million displaced people have been forced from their homes worldwide, more than at any time in recorded history, including over 30 million refugees around the world; and

**WHEREAS,** refugees have fled their country because they have a well-founded fear of persecution because of their race, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group; and

**WHEREAS,** resettlement provides a haven when refugees cannot return home and cannot rebuild their lives in the country, and have fled due to lack of access to safety, shelter, health care, education, or protection; and

**WHEREAS, World Refugee Day** is dedicated to providing refugees with opportunities to rebuild and enjoy their lives in a safe environment with dignity and grace, and **World Refugee Week** is dedicated to bringing people together, bridging divides, and offering support and resilience, and the 2026 theme is "**Courage;**" and

**WHEREAS,** the City of Rockville is a welcoming city that celebrates the growing diversity of its residents and acknowledges that refugees, immigrants, and all newcomers enhance the culture and the economy; and

**WHEREAS,** residents of Rockville aspire to live up to our highest societal values of acceptance, equity, and inclusion, treat newcomers with decency and respect, and create a vibrant community for all.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** the Mayor and Council of the City of Rockville, Maryland, proclaim **June 20, 2026,** as **World Refugee Day,** and **June 15 - 21, 2026,** as **World Refugee Week,**



  
Monique Ashton, Mayor

  
Kate Fulton, Councilmember

  
Izola (Zola) Shaw, Councilmember

  
Barry Jackson, Councilmember

  
Mahasa Valeri, Councilmember

  
David Myles, Councilmember

  
Adam Van Greck, Councilmember

June 1, 2026