



WHEREAS, in 1976, Black History Month, also known as African American History Month, was formally adopted to honor and affirm the importance of African American history, and the theme for 2026 is, “A Century of Black History Commemorations;” and

WHEREAS, because of their determination, hard work, intelligence, and perseverance, African Americans have made valuable and lasting contributions to the City of Rockville and to our country, achieving success in all aspects of society, including business, education, politics, science, and the arts; and

WHEREAS, during African American History Month, all Americans are encouraged to reflect on past and present successes and challenges of African Americans, as we all look to the future and continue to improve society. We are reminded to embrace the ideals of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion; and

WHEREAS, we are proud of heroes, pioneers, and leaders such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Jesse Owens, Justice Thurgood Marshall, Dr. Mae Jemison, Dr. Charles Drew, and many recent notable African Americans such as astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson, President Barack Obama, Vice President Kamala Harris, youth poet laureate Amanda Gorman, and Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett, who lead the team that researched and developed the COVID-19 vaccine. Their achievements have contributed to the American promise, enriching our lives, and served as models for leadership. We are especially proud of Maryland’s first African American Governor, Wes Moore, and first African American Senator, Angela Alsobrooks; and

WHEREAS, the 67th term of the Mayor and Council is the most diverse in the history of the City of Rockville, Maryland, including the first BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, Person of Color) female Mayor.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, do hereby proclaim the month of **February 2026**, to be **African American History Month** and encourage the Rockville community to learn about, share stories, recognize, and appreciate the many contributions made by African Americans throughout this region, and to participate in the many educational events honoring the contributions of African Americans throughout the month.


Menique Ashton, Mayor
Kate Fulton, Councilmember
Izola (Zola) Shaw, Councilmember
Barry Jackson, Councilmember
Marissa Valeri, Councilmember
David Myles, Councilmember
Adam Van Grack, Councilmember

February 2, 2026