



**WHEREAS**, the commemoration of **Caribbean-American Heritage Month** was initiated in 2004 by Ms. Claire Nelson, Ph.D., and adopted by the U.S. House of Representatives in 2005, to recognize the significance of Caribbean people and their descendants on the history and culture of the United States. The resolution passed the Senate in February 2006, and President George H.W. Bush issued the proclamation in June 2006; and

**WHEREAS**, since the declaration, the White House has issued an annual proclamation recognizing June as **Caribbean-American Heritage Month**; and

**WHEREAS**, during **Caribbean-American Heritage Month**, we acknowledge the significant ways Americans with roots in the Caribbean have shaped our culture and heritage, greatly enriching our society as scholars, business leaders, authors, community leaders, inventors, activists, athletes, artists, and musicians. Some notable leaders include Alexander Hamilton, the first Secretary of Treasury; Former Secretary of State Colin Powell; Celia Cruz, the world-renowned Salsa music pioneer; Shirley Chisholm, the first African American Congresswoman, Academy Award-winning actor Sidney Portier; Harlem Renaissance poet James Weldon Johnson author of *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, and his brother, John Rosamond Johnson, who composed the music to this famous poem; Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, among many others. Caribbean Americans have made their mark in every facet of our society and have contributed to the betterment and diversity of our Nation, State, and City; and

**WHEREAS**, as we celebrate **Caribbean-American Heritage Month**, let us hold fast to the spirit that makes our country a beacon to the world. This month let us remember that we are always at our best when we focus on what we can build up and together let us strengthen the bonds that hold together the most diverse Nation on earth.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Mayor and Council of the City of Rockville, Maryland, do hereby proclaim **June 2025**, as **Caribbean-American Heritage Month** in the City of Rockville, and urge all of the residents of our City to honor these cultural and historical bonds and be reminded that America's greatness lies in its diversity.



  
Monique Ashton, Mayor

  
Kate Fulton, Councilmember

  
Izola (Zola) Shaw, Councilmember

  
Barry Jackson, Councilmember

  
Marissa Valeri, Councilmember

  
David Myles, Councilmember

  
Adam Van Grack, Councilmember

**June 2, 2025**