



WHEREAS, Diwali is a festival of lights and one of the major festivals celebrated by Hindus, Jains, and some Buddhists; and

WHEREAS, the festival lasts five days and is celebrated during the Hindu lunisolar month Kartika, between mid-October and mid-November; and

WHEREAS, Diwali symbolizes the spiritual victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance; and

WHEREAS, the festival is widely associated with Lakshmi, Goddess of prosperity and Moksha Kalyanak, the liberation of Tirthankar Mahavir, and is associated with other regional traditions connecting the holiday to Sita, Rama, Vishnu, Krishna, Yams, Yami, Durga, Kai, and Hanuman, as well as others; and

WHEREAS, the five days of **Diwali** are: Day 1- **Dhanteras**, Day 2 – **Choti Diwali**, Day 3 – Lakshma Puja/Kali (families gather to feast and welcome the goddess of wealth, fortune, and prosperity to enter their homes), Puja, Day 4 – **Govardhan Puja**, and Day 5 – **Bhai Dooj/Vishwakarma**; and

WHEREAS, the last day of the festival ends with **Bhai Dooj**, the day when sisters pray for long and happy lives for their brothers and sisters, and brothers share their love for each other with Aarti, meals, and gifts:

WHEREAS, Bandi Chhor Divas is celebrated by Sikhs on the last day of Diwali as the liberation of Guru Hargobind from imprisonment, and will be commemorated on the same date; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, hereby proclaim **October 20, 2025**, as **Diwali** in Rockville and invite all residents to understand its principles and enjoy the celebration of the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance. The City encourages everyone to share the principles of the **Festival of Lights** and to share love for all residents of Rockville and beyond.




Marique Ashton, Mayor


Kate Fush, Councilmember


Izola (Zola) Shaw, Councilmember


Barry Jackson, Councilmember


Marissa Valeri, Councilmember


David Myles, Councilmember


Adam Van Grack, Councilmember

October 6, 2025