



**WHEREAS**, April 2026 is **Autism Acceptance Month**, and this year's theme is "*Celebrate Differences*," and the City of Rockville is honored to take part in the annual observance to help raise awareness, to promote autism acceptance, to celebrate each individual's unique differences, and to foster inclusivity and connectedness; and

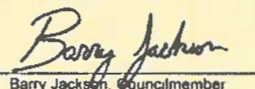
**WHEREAS**, Autism Spectrum Disorder is the result of a neurological disorder affecting more than three million people, and affects one in sixty-eight children in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Autism Spectrum Disorder is estimated to be the fastest-growing developmental disability in the United States by The Centers for Disease Control and Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network; and

**WHEREAS**, there are multiple organizations dedicated to empowering the community and advocating for the needs of individuals with autism and their families, and helping to promote awareness and acceptance, including: The Arc Montgomery County, Main Street Makom, Madison House Autism Foundation, and Sunflower Bakery; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Rockville promotes inclusion in recreation programs by involving parents and caregivers in planning that focuses on participants' strengths and incorporates program modifications that allow children with autism to participate in activities and experiences with other participants.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Mayor and Council of the City of Rockville, Maryland, do hereby proclaim **April 2026 as Autism Acceptance Month** in the City of Rockville, Maryland, and we urge everyone to increase their knowledge of the condition and specific programs that have been and are being developed to support individuals with autism and their families.

  
Monique Ashton, Mayor  
Kate Fulton, Councilmember  
Izola (Zola) Shaw, Councilmember  
Barry Jackson, Councilmember  
Monissa Valen, Councilmember  
David Myles, Councilmember  
Adam Van Grack, Councilmember

**April 13, 2026**