



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


Marissa Valeri, Councilmember


David Myles, Councilmember


Adam Van Grack, Councilmember

June 1, 2026