



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; 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 2026** 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 (Zoia) Shaw, Councilmember


Barry Jackson, Councilmember


Manissa Valeri, Councilmember


David Myles, Councilmember


Adam Van Grack, Councilmember

June 1, 2026