



WHEREAS, service dogs play a vital role in enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities in our community, both visible and invisible, including visual impairments, hearing impairments, mobility limitations, autism, post-traumatic stress disorder, and seizure disorders; and

WHEREAS, service dogs demonstrate extraordinary dedication, remaining constantly alert and prepared to perform tasks that mitigate their handlers' disabilities—providing unwavering support and assistance to their human partners; and

WHEREAS, these highly trained animals perform a wide variety of essential tasks for their handlers and are protected as working animals under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); and

WHEREAS, recognizing the invaluable contributions of service dogs raises public awareness of the many ways in which these animals enhance human lives; and

WHEREAS, through their constant presence and support, service dogs enable greater independence, improved quality of life, and increased participation in society for the individuals they assist; and

WHEREAS, National Service Dog Month serves to educate our community about the benefits of service dogs and the laws protecting them.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mayor and Council of the City of Rockville, Maryland, do hereby proclaim **September 2026 as National Service Dog Month** in Rockville, and urge all residents to celebrate service dogs, honor their invaluable role in the lives of those with disabilities, and respect the rights of the adults, children, and veterans who lead more independent lives because of their assistance.



Monique Ashton, Mayor

Kate Fulton, Councilmember

Izola (Zola) Shaw, Councilmember

Barry Jackson, Councilmember

Marissa Valeri, Councilmember

David Myles, Councilmember

Adam Van Grack, Councilmember

September 14, 2026