Proclamation

WHEREAS, bullying is the most common form of violence in our society. 70.6% of young people nationwide say they have seen bullying in their schools, and 30% have admitted to bullying others. Membership in either the bully or the victim group is closely associated with dropping out of school, poor social development, criminal activity, or other negative long-term consequences; and

WHEREAS, bullying at school, cyberbullying, and bullying in group settings have been on the rise, and many organizations, school districts, community centers, educators, and parents have publicly expressed concern about the bullying of children; and

WHEREAS, we must safeguard schools, the workplace, and our communities for children and adults by offering them an environment that holds promise and security; and

WHEREAS, National Bullying Prevention Month takes place every October and provides an opportunity to raise awareness and highlight efforts made by the City of Rockville for our community. We join forces with thousands of other communities across the country to promote safe environments that foster and embrace the uniqueness of each child; and

WHEREAS, the youth programs provided through the Rockville Recreation and Parks Department play a vital role in addressing the concerns of bullying through safe and supportive programs, delivered with acceptance and kindness, such as afterschool initiatives, sports, youth development, and counseling programs; and

WHEREAS, workplace bullying and harassment have become an epidemic that must be addressed, and workers must be provided with a safe work environment to help foster respectful social interactions.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mayor and Council of the City of Rockville, Maryland, do hereby proclaim **October 2026** as **National Bullying Prevention Month** and ask that everyone be models for children and adults to help combat bullying behavior through kindness, empathy, and compassion towards others.

Monique Ashton, Mayor

Kate Fulton, Councilmember

Izola (Zola) Shaw, Councilmember

Barry Jackson, Councilmember

Marissa Valeri, Councilmember

David Myles, Councilmember

Adam Van Grack Councilmember

October 5, 2026