THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY MARYLAND

Proclamation

WHEREAS, on September 6, 1776, Dr. Thomas Sprigg Wootton, a member of the Maryland Constitutional Convention, introduced legislation establishing Montgomery County, named for Revolutionary War General Richard Montgomery, who died fighting for the Continental Army in Quebec; and

WHEREAS, the history of Montgomery County reaches back long before 1776, including generations of Piscataway people and other Indigenous communities who lived on and cared for this land, and whose histories and enduring connections to this region remain an essential part of our shared heritage; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County's early history includes the historic Hungerford Resolves, a 1774 declaration expressing support for colonial rights and opposition to British rule; the establishment of Rockville as the County seat; and Brookeville's remarkable role during the War of 1812, where President James Madison and other federal officials sought refuge after the burning of Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, the Chesapeake and Ohio (C&O) Canal and the growth of the Baltimore and Ohio (B&O) Railroad and surrounding communities helped transform Montgomery County from a largely agricultural community into an increasingly connected and diverse place, while landmarks such as Great Falls Tavern, the Seneca Aqueduct and the Monocacy Aqueduct remain lasting reminders of this era; and

WHEREAS, the stories of those who fought for freedom are woven throughout our County's history, including Reverend Josiah Henson, whose years of enslavement on the Isaac Riley Farm and subsequent escape to Canada became inspiration for Harriet Beecher Stowe's seminal novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*; and

WHEREAS, generations of African Americans built thriving communities and institutions throughout Montgomery County, including Sandy Spring, Lincoln Park, Lyttonsville, Scotland and other historic communities whose descendants continue to preserve and carry forward their legacies; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County became home to remarkable women who shaped American history and public life, from suffragist Lavinia Margaret Engle and Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, to civil rights and women's rights leaders like Pauline Woo Tsui and Carmen Delgado Votaw; and today, women, including a record number of women of color, hold a majority of seats on the Montgomery County Council, reflecting the growing diversity of leadership in our community; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County has played a role in the ongoing struggle for civil rights, from Thurgood Marshall's work in the 1937 Gibbs v. Broome case challenging unequal pay for Black teachers to the local activism that helped bring about the desegregation of Glen Echo Park; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County has also been home to people whose work reached far beyond our borders, including environmental pioneer Rachel Carson, whose time in Silver Spring helped shape the ideas that would become *Silent Spring*, and the scientists and researchers whose work at the National Institutes of Health have advanced human health around the world; and

WHEREAS, these histories of Indigenous communities, farmers and workers, freedom seekers, civil rights advocates, scientists, artists, immigrants and generations of families have continually reshaped Montgomery County, and remind us that our history is made by us all; and

WHEREAS, over the past 50 years, Montgomery County has been transformed by people from around the world, with more than one-third of residents born outside the United States and students speaking more than 160 languages in our public schools; this diversity has strengthened the County's cultural life and global connections, including through its Sister Cities relationships; and

WHEREAS, Maryland Two Fifty has helped Montgomery County and communities across Maryland commemorate the nation's 250th anniversary by encouraging residents to explore the people, places and stories that have shaped our shared history; and

WHEREAS, as Montgomery County marks its 250th anniversary alongside the State of Maryland and the nation's America 250 commemoration, we have an opportunity to learn from our history in its fullness, acknowledge where we have fallen short, celebrate how far we have come, and carry the lessons and contributions of those who came before us into the next 250 years and beyond.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Council of Montgomery County, Maryland, hereby celebrates the

250TH ANNIVERSARY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

and encourages all residents to explore, preserve and share the history of the people and places that have made our County what it is today.

Presented on this 22nd day of September in the year 2026.

Marc Elrich
County Executive

Natali Fani-González
Council President