



WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863 had only freed slaves in states of rebellion, of which Maryland was not one because during the Civil War Maryland was a Union State in which slavery was legal; and

WHEREAS, it would be left up to the political powers of Maryland to end its own slavery that came in 1864 when the State drew up a new constitution, and

WHEREAS, one hundred fifty years ago on November 1, 1864, the Maryland State Legislature adopted a new state constitution, which emancipated Maryland's slaves and formally ended the "peculiar institution," a euphemism for slavery in the south; and

WHEREAS, Maryland Emancipation Day was formally commemorated in 1865 in the City of Frederick and in 1867 in Trappe, Maryland, where Nathaniel Hopkins founded the celebration that included church services, speakers, food, music and a parade, which Hopkins led; and

WHEREAS, Maryland Emancipation Day is a momentous event that marked Maryland as the first slave state to voluntarily free its enslaved people by popular vote; and

WHEREAS, today there are many celebrations of Maryland's Emancipation Day across the state to commemorate and reflect upon this important time in American history.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF ROCKVILLE do hereby proclaim November 1, 2014 as Maryland Emancipation Day and urge all residents to recognize this special observance and take part in the Maryland Emancipation Day celebration hosted by the Montgomery County Historical Society on Saturday, November 1, 2014 from noon to 4:00 p.m. at the Beall-Dawson Historical Park.

Bridget Donnell Newton
Bridget Donnell Newton, Mayor

Beryl L. Feinberg
Beryl L. Feinberg, Councilmember

Tom Moore
Tom Moore, Councilmember

Virginia D. Onley
Virginia D. Onley, Councilmember

Julie Palakovich Carr
Julie Palakovich Carr, Councilmember

October 27, 2014