

**City of College Park Proclamation
Transit Equity Day
February 4, 2022**

- WHEREAS,** Rosa Parks was an iconic figure in the movements for social justice and racial equality, and played a major role in the inception of the Civil Rights movement that ended legal segregation in the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** the immediate focus of Rosa Parks' historic protest was the unequal access of African-Americans to public transit; and
- WHEREAS,** unequal access to public transit based on race, income, and disability have persisted to this day, and become worse when cuts to public funding for transit result in fare increases; and
- WHEREAS,** a reliable paratransit system is a necessary component of any public transit system to ensure accessibility for people with disabilities who require it; and
- WHEREAS,** affordable, reliable public transit is an essential public service, on par with utilities such as water and electricity; and
- WHEREAS,** transitioning our transportation system from excessive automobile dependence to public transit, especially electrified public transit with electricity from renewable sources, is key to transitioning our economy from fossil fuels to renewable energy and cutting our greenhouse gas emissions; and
- WHEREAS,** increased community access to public transit, and a reduction in racial, economic and other barriers that prevent people from having equal access to public transit, benefit everyone and strengthen our society.

THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the City of College Park supports the call to observe a Day of Action on Public Transportation as a Civil Right on February 4, 2022, to draw attention to the continuing racial, economic, and other inequalities in access to adequate public transit, and the need for affordable and accessible transit; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that the City of College Park supports increased accessibility to public transit for people with disabilities; increased funding for paratransit to ensure that it is reliable, timely, and affordable; increased job opportunities in transit system operation with jobs that pay family-supporting wages, provide good benefits, and prioritizes the hiring of economically disadvantaged people, people of color, and people from communities currently underserved by transit.

SO PROCLAIMED THIS 1st DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2022.

**Patrick L. Wojahn, Mayor
City of College Park, Maryland**