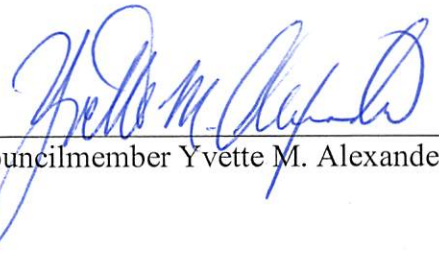


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2   
3 Councilmember Mary M. Cheh

  
Councilmember Yvette M. Alexander

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8 A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

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11  
12 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

13  
14  
15  
16 To declare the month of September "Sickle Cell Awareness Month" in the District of Columbia  
17 and to recognize the need to address the problem of Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) at both  
18 national and local levels.

19 WHEREAS, Sickle Cell Month was officially recognized in 1983 when the House of  
20 Representatives unanimously passed the resolution, introduced by the Congressional Black  
21 Caucus, asking President Reagan to designate September as "National Sickle Cell Anemia  
22 Awareness Month";

23  
24 WHEREAS, SCD results in an abnormality in the oxygen-carrying protein haemoglobin  
25 found in red blood cells;

26  
27 WHEREAS, SCD is the most common genetic blood disease in the United States, affecting  
28 between 90,000 and 100,000 Americans;

29  
30 WHEREAS, about 2.5 million people in the United States have sickle cell trait, which  
31 occurs when a person inherits one copy of the globin gene;

32  
33 WHEREAS, SCD is usually diagnosed at birth via blood test during routine newborn  
34 screenings;

35  
36 WHEREAS, currently, all 50 states in the U.S. require newborn screening programs for  
37 SCD;

38  
39 WHEREAS, SCD can lead to recurrent and chronic pain, lung disease, leg ulcers, and other  
40 complications, several of which have a high mortality rate;

41  
42 WHEREAS, impaired blood flow associated with SCD can potentially cause damage to  
43 most organ systems of the body including the kidneys, livers, spleen, and eyes;

1           WHEREAS, SCD occurs in about 1 out of every 365 Black or African-American births,  
2 and about 1 out of every 16,300 Hispanic-American births;

3  
4           WHEREAS, there are approximately 2,000 people living in the District of Columbia with  
5 SCD, and 118,000 with the sickle cell trait, according to the Center for Sickle Cell at Howard  
6 University;

7  
8           WHEREAS, Wards 5, 6, 7, and 8 provide approximately 65% of the total number of SCD  
9 patient services in the District;

10  
11           WHEREAS, because children with SCD are at increased risk of infection and other health  
12 complications, early diagnosis and treatment to prevent problems is critical;

13  
14           WHEREAS, the annual cost of medical care in the United States for individuals who suffer  
15 from SCD exceeds \$1.1 billion; and

16  
17           WHEREAS, the cure for SCD, only recently discovered, involves a stem cell  
18 transplantation from a healthy, tissue-matched donor, eliminating the need for chemotherapy to  
19 prepare the patient to receive the transplanted cells and offering the prospect of a disease-free  
20 life for tens of thousands of adults suffering;

21  
22           IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,  
23 That this resolution may be cited as the "Sickle Cell Awareness Recognition Resolution of 2016."

24  
25           Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and supports Sickle Cell  
26 Awareness Month and urges citizens to reflect on the children and adults whose lives, education  
27 and careers have been affected by Sickle Cell Disease.

28  
29           Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in  
30 the District of Columbia Register.