



City of Chicago



R2018-1062

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

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| Meeting Date: | 10/31/2018 |
| Sponsor(s): | Harris (8) |
| Type: | Resolution |
| Title: | Recognition of September as Sickle Cell Awareness Month in Chicago |
| Committee(s) Assignment: | |

Alderman Michelle A. Harris

October 31, 2018

, The Honorable Michelle A. Harris, Alderman of the 8th Ward, has informed this Council of Sickle Cell Awareness Month and urges this Council to proclaim September as Sickle Cell Awareness Month in Chicago; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this City Council to recognize official days that are set aside to increase awareness of serious illnesses that affect the lives of citizens of the City of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this City Council is justly proud to proclaim September as Sickle Cell Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, Sickle cell disease is a chronic hereditary blood disorder that can cause severe pain and result in damage to the brain and other vital organs like the kidneys, liver, spleen and heart; and

WHEREAS, People who have the disease but do not experience the symptoms are said to have the sickle cell trait; currently, an estimated 100,000 Americans are living with the disease; and

WHEREAS, Frequent pain episodes can result in necrosis of the hips, knees, ankle and shoulder; there can be entrapment of blood in the spleen, severe anemia, acute lung complications (acute chest syndrome), priapism in males, and difficult pregnancy for women of child bearing age; and

WHEREAS, These life-threatening complications can develop rapidly, including infections of the blood (sepsis), meningitis and stroke; stroke can be either silent (no overt symptoms) or clinical (with symptoms) and can affect children as young as 18 months; and

WHEREAS, Up to 40% of children will have had either a silent or clinical stroke by the age of 18 and this impacts their ability to learn and/or hold a job; and

WHEREAS, Sickle cell disease is most common in Africans and African-Americans, but the disease can also be found in other demographics, primarily in South and Central America, the Caribbean, Mediterranean countries and India; approximately 1 in 12 African-Americans are diagnosed with the trait; and

WHEREAS, Sickle cell disease affects approximately 100,000 Americans and approximately 5-7% of these patients reside in Illinois, and 80% of those patients live in the Chicagoland area; and

WHEREAS, Sickle cell disease is the most costly per patient, accounting for up to 40% of Illinois State Medicaid with patient readmissions within 30 days nationwide with 190,000 emergency department visits each year and 110,000 hospital readmissions each year; and

WHEREAS, The only known cure for sickle cell disease is through a transplant of bone marrow or stem cells; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this thirty-first day of October, 2018, do hereby to proclaim September as Sickle Cell Awareness Month in Chicago; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be presented to the Sickle Cell Disease Association of Illinois.

MAYOR

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