

RESOLUTION NO. 147-2023(CRR),
First Reading

By Councilwoman Russell

A Resolution recognizing September, 2023 as *National Sickle Cell Awareness Month*; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

WHEREAS, approximately 100,000 Americans have Sickle Cell Disease (SCD)—a group of inherited red blood cell disorders that can cause acute, chronic pain and serious health complications, including infections, strokes, organ damage, vision problems, and serious fatigue; and

WHEREAS, there is no widely available cure for SCD and while bone marrow and stem cell transplants can work for some people with SCD, low donor availability and treatment-related complications put those options out of reach for many living with the disease; and

WHEREAS, although SCD affects people of all backgrounds, it disproportionately affects Black and Hispanic Americans; and

WHEREAS, combined with the documented disparities in treatment and care, people living with SCD often lack access to specialized care, treatment, and information about the disease, and they face barriers to receiving pain management and treatment support; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Sickle Cell Data Collection program is gathering more comprehensive information on the experiences of SCD patients, which will inform new treatments and health care services, and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is developing a Cell and Gene Therapy Access Model, which would help Medicaid beneficiaries gain access to potentially life-changing, high-cost specialty drugs for illness like sickle cell disease.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, that:

SECTION 1. This Council hereby proclaims September 2023 *National Sickle Cell Awareness Month* and acknowledges all those living with SCD and the many health and medical professionals working to find new treatments and a cure for this disease.

SECTION 2. Notice of the passage of this Resolution shall be given by publishing the title and abstract of its contents, prepared by the Director of Law, once in one newspaper of general circulation in the City of Cleveland Heights.

