

RESOLUTION NO. 13-620

WHEREAS, the City Council and the Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, would like to proclaim September as "Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month in the City of Huntsville."

WHEREAS, September is National Sickle Cell Awareness Month and throughout the month of September, public education programs and fund raising activities are conducted to call attention to sickle cell disease on a local and national level. Sickle disease is an inherited blood disorder that causes pain, infection disability, economic strain and even death among those susceptible. Sickle cell affects people of many ethnicities, including those of African, Middle Eastern, Latino, Asian, Indian, and Mediterranean decent. However, it disproportionately affects African-Americans; and,

WHEREAS, Alabamians with sickle cell disease suffer from anemia, increased susceptibility to infection, severe pain, strokes, progressive organ damage, and a shortened life span. Painful and debilitating episodes can require repeated emergency room treatment and even hospitalization. Appropriate clinical care and self-management can improve dramatically the duration and quality of life for patients with sickle cell disease, thus making early identification and treatment of the disease essential; and,

WHEREAS, since 1990, the North Alabama Sickle Cell Foundation, Inc., has provided quality services in Colbert, DeKalb, Franklin, Jackson, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marshall and Morgan counties. Provisions of services are a collaborative effort between regional educators/counselors, community-based programs, major medical centers, local health departments and the State Laboratory of Public Health. All services are free of charge; and,

WHEREAS, the North Alabama Sickle Cell Foundation, Inc., is the only entity in Northern Alabama that is dedicated to educating the public about this blood disorder and serving persons affected by sickle cell disease and members of their families.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, recognize the need to enhance awareness of sickle cell disease and to continue making progress toward developing better treatment and ultimately a cure for this debilitating disease; thus proclaiming September as "Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month" in the City of Huntsville.

ADOPTED on this the 22nd day of August, 2013.

President of the City Council of the
City of Huntsville, Alabama

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APPROVED on this the 22nd day of August, 2013.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama