

1 Introduced by Council Member Johnson and Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Members Salem, Pittman and Clark-Murray:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2025-706-A**

6 A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER
7 2025 AS THE DR. CHARLES B. MCINTOSH SICKLE CELL
8 DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH IN JACKSONVILLE, AND
9 HONORING THE LEGACY OF DR. CHARLES B. MCINTOSH;
10 REQUESTING EMERGENCY PASSAGE UPON INTRODUCTION;
11 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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13 **WHEREAS**, September has been nationally recognized as Sickle Cell
14 Disease Awareness Month, a time for cities across America to shine a
15 light on a condition often hidden in shadows; and

16 **WHEREAS**, sickle cell disease (SCD), the most common inherited
17 blood disorder in the United States, touches the lives of more than
18 100,000 Americans nationwide; and while it disproportionately impacts
19 people of African descent—striking approximately 1 in every 365 Black
20 or African American births, with 1 in 13 born carrying the trait— it
21 is not confined to one community, also affecting individuals of
22 Hispanic, South Asian, Southern European, and Middle Eastern
23 ancestry, reminding us of both its broad reach and its generational
24 weight; and

25 **WHEREAS**, in Jacksonville and across Northeast Florida, sickle
26 cell disease remains a pressing public health concern, carrying the
27 weight of chronic pain, vulnerability to organ damage, and life-
28 limiting complications; and

29 **WHEREAS**, in 1969, Dr. Charles B. McIntosh, a proud graduate of
30 Old Stanton High School and Meharry Medical Institute, became the
31 founding force behind the Sickle Cell Disease Association of Northeast

1 Florida, committing his career to education, research, and advocacy
2 on behalf of families living with sickle cell disease; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Dr. McIntosh, Jacksonville's first Black pediatrician,
4 the first Black physician to serve on the Florida Board of Medical
5 Examiners, and a founding member of Volunteers in Medicine
6 Jacksonville, was more than a healer: he was a pioneer, a barrier-
7 breaker, and a lifelong champion of health equity in the face of
8 systemic disparities; and

9 **WHEREAS**, through courage and example, Dr. McIntosh reminds us
10 that progress comes when science, compassion, and justice walk
11 together, and his enduring impact calls on this city to continue the
12 march toward cures, access, and dignity for all; and

13 **WHEREAS**, while bone marrow and stem cell transplants remain the
14 only potential cure, advances in treatment and early detection,
15 coupled with dedicated research, continue to bring new hope; and

16 **WHEREAS**, awareness saves lives, advocacy changes outcomes, and
17 community support lifts the burdens of families living with sickle
18 cell disease; now therefore

19 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

20 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby declares the month of
21 September 2025 to be the Dr. Charles B. McIntosh Sickle Cell Disease
22 Awareness Month in Jacksonville, honoring the life and legacy of Dr.
23 Charles B. McIntosh, and encourages all citizens to stand informed,
24 engaged, and committed to supporting those living with sickle cell
25 disease and to advancing the search for a permanent cure.

26 **Section 2. Requesting Emergency Passage Upon Introduction**
27 **Pursuant to Council Rule 4.901 Emergency.** Emergency passage upon
28 introduction of this Resolution is requested. The nature of the
29 emergency is to recognize the month of September 2025 as the Dr.
30 Charles B. McIntosh Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month in a timely
31 manner.

Section 3. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective without the Mayor's signature.

Form Approved:

/s/Mary E. Staffopoulos

Office of General Counsel

Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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