

Introduced by Council Member Johnson:

RESOLUTION 2025-706

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, in 1969, Dr. Charles B. McIntosh, a proud graduate of
Old Stanton High School and Meharry Medical Institute, became the
founding force behind the Sickle Cell Disease Association of Northeast
Florida, committing his career to education, research, and advocacy

1 on behalf of families living with sickle cell disease; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

31 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become

1 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
2 without the Mayor's signature.

3
4 Form Approved:

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6 /s/ Shannon MacGillis

7 Office of General Counsel

8 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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