

DURHAM BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

*Proclamation*

**12<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY WORLD SICKLE CELL AWARENESS DAY: SHINE THE LIGHT ON SICKLE CELL | 2021**

- WHEREAS,** sickle cell disease is an inherited blood disorder that causes pain, infection, disability, economic strain and even death, primarily among African-American children, and adults; and
- WHEREAS,** no definite cure for this disease exists, although treatment is available to help those with sickle cell disease lead more productive and rewarding lives; and
- WHEREAS,** treatment of these conditions often requires both emergency department care and hospitalization; and
- WHEREAS,** provision of services is a collaborative effort between major medical centers, regional educators/counselors, community-based programs, local health departments and the State Laboratory of Public Health; and
- WHEREAS,** many healthcare professionals, regional educators, and community advocates do not receive adequate and current education about sickle cell disease; and
- WHEREAS,** support for research on the treatment and management of this disorder, as well as overall awareness' are vital to improving the health and quality of life for persons with sickle cell disease; and
- WHEREAS,** since 1973, The North Carolina Sickle Cell Syndrome Program has provided quality services throughout the State for patients; and
- WHEREAS,** sickle cell experts and advocates from Duke University, and Pi Chapter of Chi Eta Phi Sorority are committed to improving the quality of care received by persons with sickle cell disease; and
- WHEREAS,** since 2009, June 19th was officially designated as World Sickle Cell Awareness Day. The international awareness day is observed annually with the goal to increase public knowledge and an understanding of sickle cell disease, and the challenges experienced by patients and their families and caregivers.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED I,** Brenda Howerton, Chair of the Durham Board of County Commissioners and on behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2021 as

**“WORLD SICKLE CELL AWARENESS DAY”**

in Durham County, North Carolina.

This the 14<sup>th</sup> day of June 2021.

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Brenda Howerton, Chair  
Durham Board of County Commissioners

