



County Commissioners of Charles County

PROCLAMATION 2023-69

NATIONAL SICKLE CELL AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, Sickle Cell Disease is a chronic, debilitating, and inherited condition that affects 100,000 Americans primarily African Americans and Hispanic Americans. One in 13 African Americans and approximately one in 100 Hispanic Americans carry the gene for this disease and approximately 300,000 infants are born with sickle cell anemia annually; and

WHEREAS, individuals with two copies of this gene have blood cells that are sickle-cell shaped, instead of cylindrical, which cause a disruption in blood flow that can damage many organs including the brain and kidneys; and

WHEREAS, Sickle Cell Disease is a multisystem disorder and the most common genetic disease in the United States and is recognized as a global health crisis by the World Health Organization; and

WHEREAS, The National Sickle Cell Anemia Control Act was signed into law in 1972 establishing education, information, screening, testing, counseling, research, and treatment programs for sickle cell; and

WHEREAS, the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America's theme of "Sickle Cell Matters" focuses on the need to acknowledge and support those living with this disease and the challenges they face year round; and

WHEREAS, Charles County is committed to improve the quality of life of those living with Sickle Cell Disease and to help provide a future in which people with the condition can live fully, without pain and impediment and experience a cure.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM September 2023 as **NATIONAL SICKLE CELL AWARENESS MONTH** in Charles County and calls upon the community to support research and treatment of sickle cell disease.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., *President*

Ralph E. Patterson, II, M.A., *Vice President*
District 4

Gilbert O. Bowling, III
District 1

Thomasina O. Coates, M.S.
District 2

Amanda M. Stewart, M.Ed.
District 3



Attest:

Christina L. Elkins, Assistant Clerk to the Commissioners