



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) is an inherited blood disorder, which happens when a child receives two sickle cell genes – one from each parent, in which red blood cells may become sickle-shaped and harden; and

WHEREAS, SCD is the most common inherited blood disorder in the United States, affecting approximately 100,000 Americans and more than 20 million people worldwide, according to the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; and

WHEREAS, the blockage of blood flow caused by sickled cells leads to complications like chronic severe and unpredictable pain, anemia, frequent infections, delayed growth, lung tissue damage amongst many other problems; and

WHEREAS, timely and appropriate treatment of acute illness is critical because life-threatening complications can develop rapidly and it is essential that every individual with sickle cell disease receive comprehensive care that is coordinated through a medical professional with appropriate expertise; and

WHEREAS, blood transfusions are one of the most critical treatments for sickle cell patients according to the American Red Cross, but less than ten percent of Americans donate blood.

*NOW THEREFORE, I, Ronald Jubin, Mayor of the Borough of Watchung, with the support of our Council, do hereby proclaim the month of September as **Sickle Cell Awareness Month** and call upon our community this month to use this time as an opportunity to learn about the disease and gain a better understanding of the pain and symptoms those with sickle cell endure and encourage our Residents to support by participating in a local blood donation drive.*

Ronald Jubin, Ph.D. Mayor
September 5, 2024