

PROCLAMATION

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

September is National Sickle Cell Awareness Month

September 5, 2017

WHEREAS, Sickle Cell Disease is the most common genetic disorder in the United States; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 100,000 people live with Sickle Cell Disease in the United States. Up to 80 percent are African American but many different races are affected. Millions are affected globally; and

WHEREAS, Sickle Cell Disease occurs among 1 out of every 500 African-American birth; and

WHEREAS, to have the disease, both sets of parents must pass down sickle cell genes. There is a 25 percent chance if both parents carry the Sickle Cell Trait. People who have SCT inherit one sickle cell gene from one parent and one normal gene from the other parent. People with SCT usually do not have any signs of the disease and live a normal life, but they can pass the trait on to their children; and

WHEREAS, the Sickle Cell trait occurs among about 1 in 12 African-Americans; and

WHEREAS, Sickle Cell Disease is diagnosed with a simple blood test. It is most often found at birth during routine newborn screening tests at the hospital. Because children with Sickle Cell Disease are at an increased risk of infections and other health problems, early diagnosis and treatment are important; and

WHEREAS, Sickle Cell Disease is chronic but treatable although there is no single best treatment for people with Sickle Cell Disease. Treatment options are different for each person depending on the symptoms which can range from mild to severe; and

WHEREAS, there is no universal cure for Sickle Cell Disease but in some cases, it can be cured with a bone marrow transplant.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Mayor Randy Casale and the Beacon City Council, do hereby proclaim the month of September in the year 2017 as Sickle Cell Awareness Month in the City of Beacon, New York in order to help raise awareness of Sickle Cell Disease and its victims.

Mayor Randy Casale