



City of Columbia  
*A Proclamation*

*WHEREAS, sickle cell disease is a group of inherited red blood cell disorders that causes red blood cells to elongate and clog blood vessels, thereby affecting all body systems; and*

*WHEREAS, the World Health Organization estimates that each year more than 250,000 babies worldwide are born with sickle cell disease; and*

*WHEREAS, sickle cell disease is one of eleven severe chronic diseases affecting children in South Carolina; and*

*WHEREAS, approximately 1 out of every 400 African American newborns in South Carolina has sickle cell disease, and 1 in 10 African Americans carries the sickle cell trait gene; and*

*WHEREAS, though currently no universal cure for sickle cell disease exists, quality treatment and disease management can prevent needless deaths and suffering; and*

*WHEREAS, provision of genetic testing and counseling services can serve to greatly impact the prevalence of sickle cell disease through family planning and other primary prevention services; and*

*WHEREAS, the James R. Clark Memorial Sickle Cell Foundation's medical and psychosocial services network provides an effective approach to treatment, management and prevention services which serve to alleviate suffering and enhance the lives of citizens with sickle cell disease and those who are at risk throughout the Midlands area of South Carolina;*

*NOW, THEREFORE I, Stephen K. Benjamin, Mayor of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, along with my fellow members of Columbia City Council, do hereby proclaim September, 2010 as*

***Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month***

*in the City of Columbia and the Midlands area of South Carolina and encourage all citizens to work together to raise public awareness of the treatment options and prevention services that are available to our citizens who suffer or are at risk of suffering from sickle cell disease.*



  
Stephen K. Benjamin  
Mayor