

RESOLUTION NO. 26R-02-51

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAUDERHILL, FLORIDA, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 353 AND SENATE BILL 844 (2026) WHICH REQUIRES SPECIFIC HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS TO COMPLETE A 2 HOUR CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE ON SICKLE CELL DISEASE AS PART OF THEIR FIRST LICENSE RENEWAL, AND REVISES REGULATIONS FOR CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE PRESCRIBING COURSE; DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO TRANSMIT A CERTIFIED COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE FLORIDA SENATE, THE SPEAKER OF THE FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND THE BROWARD COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE (REQUESTED BY MAYOR DENISE D. GRANT).

WHEREAS, sickle cell disease (SCD) is a severe, life-threatening inherited disease that affects the red blood cells and impacts predominantly people of color – particularly African Americans; and

WHEREAS, sickle cell is a disease in which a person's body produces abnormally shaped red blood cells that resemble a crescent or sickle shape, and that do not last as long as normal round red blood cells, which leads to anemia and can cause pain and organ damage; and

WHEREAS, individuals living with sickle cell disease experience severe pain, anemia, organ failure, stroke, and infection; and in one recent study, more than 30% of those diagnosed experienced premature death, and another recent study estimates that the life expectancy for individuals with sickle cell disease is 54 years; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that sickle cell disease affects more than 100,000 people in the United States, the exact number of people with sickle cell disease is unknown, there is a need for comprehensive and coordinated data collection efforts to better understand and quantify the scope and impact of sickle cell disease on patients, communities, states, and the nation; and

WHEREAS, in the more than 100 years since the underlying cause of sickle cell disease was discovered, the sickle cell patient community has received relatively little attention and few resources, and these individuals have suffered due to racial discrimination in the health care system in addition to life-threatening disease burden; and

WHEREAS, individuals living with sickle cell disease encounter barriers to obtaining quality care and improving their quality of life, these barriers include limitations in geographic access to comprehensive care, the varied use of effective treatments, the discrimination of being labelled "drug seekers" when seeking care during a crisis, the reliance on emergency care, and the limited number of health care providers with knowledge and experience to manage and treat sickle cell disease; and

WHEREAS, SCD treatments have improved over the years and new ones are emerging from drug company pipelines, but patients still face serious complications, high rates of hospitalization and early death compared to the general population, and patients are experiencing sub-optimal access due to Medicaid health plans imposing prior authorization and step therapy requirements; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to advocate for the ability to improve the quality of health, life and services for individuals, families and communities affected by sickle cell disease and related conditions, while promoting the search for a cure for all people in the world with sickle cell disease; and

WHEREAS, efforts should focus on the identification and promotion of affordable interventions, including but not limited to community education, training of health professionals, and newborn screening for early diagnosis of sickle cell disease; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Lauderhill believes it is in the best interest of its residents to support House Bill 353 and Senate Bill 844 to require medical professionals to continue to learn about the impacts of Sickle Cell Disease through continuing education classes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAUDERHILL, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. That the foregoing WHEREAS clauses are hereby adopted and incorporated herein.

SECTION 2. The City Commission of the City of Lauderhill hereby expresses support for House Bill 353 and Senate Bill 844.

SECTION 3. The City Clerk is directed to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the President of the Florida Senate, Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, and the Broward County Legislative Delegation.

SECTION 4. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage and approval.

PASSED AND APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2026.

DENISE D. GRANT, MAYOR
PRESIDING OFFICER

ATTEST:

ANDREA M. ANDERSON, MMC
CITY CLERK

MOTION _____
SECOND _____

R. CAMPBELL _____
M. DUNN _____
D. GRANT _____
J. HODGSON _____
S. MARTIN _____

Approved as to Form

Hans Ottinot
City Attorney