

City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia Office of the Chief Clerk Room 402, City Hall Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 250592)

RESOLUTION

Recognizing May 25 as Melanoma and Skin Cancer Awareness Month in Philadelphia

WHEREAS, Melanoma accounts for 5% of skin cancers, but 71% of skin cancer deaths, though melanoma is highly preventable, the American Cancer Society predicts there will be 104,960 new melanomas in 2025; and

WHEREAS, 90% of melanoma cases are linked to UV exposure, meaning protective measures like sunscreen and avoiding tanning beds can significantly reduce risk; and

WHEREAS, Despite its preventability, melanoma remains one of the deadliest skin cancers due to its potential for early metastasis and high mortality rates when diagnosed at later stages, particularly for people of color who are often diagnosed at later stages who have a significantly lower five-year melanoma-specific survival rate; and

WHEREAS, Though anyone can develop melanoma, Black patients are more likely to be diagnosed at advanced stages, and their 5-year survival rate is just 66%, compared to 94% for White patients; and

WHEREAS, Late-stage diagnosis disparities for people of color are fueled by misconceptions, lack of awareness and barriers to care, 65% of Black individuals report never using sunscreen, and many believe they are not at risk for skin cancer; and

WHEREAS, Philadelphia has an age-adjusted incidence rate at 1.7 cases per 100,000 people and nearly 20% of those cases are diagnosed at a late stage, unfortunately, the racial disparities in late-stage diagnosis are concerning; and

WHEREAS, Philadelphia County has a high Social Vulnerability Index of 0.9465, indicating that we have a high population of underserved communities; and

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WHEREAS, During Melanoma and Skin Cancer Awareness Month, and year-round, IMPACT Melanoma strives to reduce melanoma cases in the U.S., spread awareness, and educate individuals about melanoma risks and prevention; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Hereby recognizes May 2025 as Melanoma and Skin Cancer Awareness Month and encourages all residents in the City to familiarize themselves with the risk factors associated with melanoma, partake in protection and prevention measures, and get skin examinations regularly.

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CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the twenty-ninth day of May, 2025.

Kenyatta Johnson
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Elizabeth McCollum
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Ahmad

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Ahmad, Phillips, Gilmore Richardson,
Gauthier, Thomas, Landau, Lozada, Young, Brooks, Harrity,
Driscoll, O'Neill, Squilla and Bass