

## Legislation Text

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Recognizing October 7<sup>th</sup> as Multiple Myeloma Awareness Day.

WHEREAS, The Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation will be hosting its third annual "Race for Research" 5K Walk/Run on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at Memorial Hall in Fairmount Park; and

WHEREAS, Multiple Myeloma is a cancer of the plasma cells in the bone marrow, which help the body to detect and attack foreign substances like toxins, viruses, bacteria, and parasites that may have entered one's body; and

WHEREAS, The exact cause of Multiple Myeloma has not been identified, however, researchers have gained a greater understanding of how specific changes in DNA can cause plasma cells to become more cancerous; and

WHEREAS, A number of risk factors for this disease have been identified, including age and having other plasma cell diseases, and common signs and symptoms of Multiple Myeloma vary based on the extent of the disease and include bone pain, fatigue, weakness, and recurrent infections; and

WHEREAS, Multiple Myeloma may be first detected in routine blood tests, however, additional tests, including bone marrow tests, may be necessary to verify the diagnosis. The treatment and prognosis for the disease depends on various factors including its stage and the patient's age and treatment may include bone marrow/stem cell transplantation, chemotherapy, and radiation therapy; and

WHEREAS, According to the American Cancer Society, approximately 15,980 new cases of Multiple Myeloma will be diagnosed in the United States in 2005 and the disease is the second most common blood cancer and third fastest growing cancer in terms of mortality in people over the age of 65; and

WHEREAS, African Americans have the highest reported incidence of Multiple Myeloma and it is one of the top 10 leading causes of cancer death over the past three years; now therefore

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That we recognize October 7<sup>th</sup> as Multiple Myeloma Awareness Day.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That an Engrossed copy of this resolution is presented to representatives of the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation as an expression of appreciation of this legislative body.