



DUVAL COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR

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MICHAEL CORRIGAN
TAX COLLECTOR

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JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202-3356

March 27, 2012

The Honorable Alvin Brown
117 W. Duval Street, Suite 400
Jacksonville, Florida 32202

Dear Mayor Brown,

I am writing in recognition of the 450th anniversary of the landing of Jean Ribault along the North Coast of Florida. I am proud to join you in commemorating the events which led to the establishment of the first French settlement in the present-day United States for the purpose of individual and religious freedom in what is now Jacksonville.

On May 1, 1562, Jean Ribault sailed into what we now call the St. Johns River and named it River May. Upon offering a prayer of thanksgiving for their safe arrival, Ribault and his men erected a column in honor of their King, Charles IX, thereby claiming the land for France. Now, Jacksonville shares a Sister City relationship with Nantes, France, where in 1598 King Henry IV issued the Edict of Nantes which granted the Huguenots substantial civil and economic rights in the predominantly Roman Catholic kingdom. This ended the "Wars of Religion" and promoted a more tolerant and inclusive society.

I am proud of our great city and excited to join in the celebration of May 1, 2012 being declared as Jean Ribault Day in Jacksonville.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael Corrigan", is written over a light-colored background.

Michael Corrigan
Tax Collector