

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) is a disease of the motor nerve cells in the spinal cord that inhibits a person's ability to perform basic life functions, such as mobility, swallowing and breathing. It is the number one genetic cause of death for infants under age 2 and can affect any race, ethnicity, or gender; and

WHEREAS: Approximately one in 11,000 babies is born with SMA, and one in 50 Americans is a genetic carrier; and

WHEREAS: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved its first treatment for SMA in 2016. Although the treatment is a major breakthrough, further research is still necessary, as some cases require a combination of therapies; and

WHEREAS: Screening newborns for SMA is key to early treatment and better prevention of the detrimental effects of the condition; and

WHEREAS: Increased awareness of SMA will lead to expanded knowledge and more support for both research and affected families; and

WHEREAS: The non-profit organization Cure SMA, which has a Greater Florida chapter serving families in our home state, works to raise money for SMA research programs, leading to clinical trials and the discovery of treatments that provide new hope to families and patients.

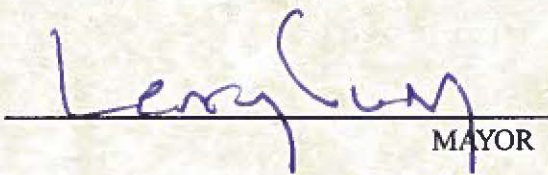
NOW, THEREFORE, I, LENNY CURRY, by virtue of the authority vested in me as mayor of Jacksonville, Florida, do hereby proclaim August 2018 as

SPINAL MUSCULAR ATROPHY (SMA) AWARENESS MONTH

in Jacksonville and call upon all residents to learn about this debilitating disease and support efforts and research that are leading to new treatments for those affected.



IN WITNESS THEREOF, this 27th day of July
in the year Two Thousand 18


MAYOR