

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: In 1964, a group of Jacksonville teenagers – Ronnie Van Zant, Bob Burns, Gary Rossington, Allen Collins and Larry Junstrom – formed a band they called My Backyard; and

WHEREAS: After numerous local and regional gigs and a few different monikers, the group finally settled on the name Lynyrd Skynyrd, a mocking tribute to their former gym teacher at Robert E. Lee High School, Leonard Skinner; and

WHEREAS: By 1973, the band had achieved national recognition following the release of its debut album, (*pronounced 'lěh-'nérd 'skin-'nérd*), which featured the anthem "Free Bird"; and

WHEREAS: Furthering its status as a pioneer of the Southern rock genre, Lynyrd Skynyrd's sophomore album, *Second Helping* (1974), included one of the band's biggest hits, "Sweet Home Alabama"; and

WHEREAS: On October 20, 1977, tragedy struck when three band members died in an airplane crash, including founding member Van Zant. A decade-long hiatus followed; and

WHEREAS: When Lynyrd Skynyrd announced a reunion tour in 1987, it included Van Zant's brother, Johnny, as lead singer, and five former members of the band, including one founding member, Rossington. The reunited group continued to make music, releasing nine more albums through 2012; and

WHEREAS: On May 4, 2018, Lynyrd Skynyrd embarked on the "Last of the Street Survivors Farewell Tour." The band makes a last stop in its hometown, Jacksonville, on September 2.

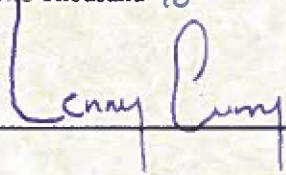
NOW, THEREFORE, I, LENNY CURRY, by virtue of the authority vested in me as mayor of Jacksonville, Florida, do hereby proclaim September 2, 2018 as

LYNYRD SKYNYRD DAY

in Jacksonville and recognize the band's historical and indelible impact upon our city, the Southern rock genre, and music as a whole.



IN WITNESS THEREOF, this 2nd day of September
in the year Two Thousand 18


MAYOR