PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, each year, approximately 24,000 babies in the United States are stillborn. While statistics reveal that as many as half of all pregnancies may end in miscarriage – which is a loss of a pregnancy prior to 20 weeks – it is only an estimate because miscarriages may occur before a woman may know she is pregnant; and

WHEREAS: Most stillbirths have no known cause, but known contributors include maternal health conditions, birth defects or genetic problems, or issues with the placenta or umbilical cord. A stillbirth can follow an otherwise normal pregnancy; and

WHEREAS: The Liam Lives Foundation is a Jacksonville-based nonprofit organization established by Dr. Tiffanie Williams in honor of the baby she lost at birth in 2016, a son named Liam Elijah Wesley Boatwright; and

WHEREAS: The foundation's programs serve grieving families and include support groups, individual and family counseling services, financial assistance for burial or cremation services, and memory boxes. Liam Lives also promotes community awareness of pregnancy and infant loss to encourage dialogue and healing; and

WHEREAS: The Liam Lives Foundation hosts a charity gala near Liam's November 15 birthday each year to support its programs and advocacy work. This year's event is November 10.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LENNY CURRY, by virtue of the authority vested in me as mayor of Jacksonville, Florida, do hereby proclaim November 15, 2018 as

LIAM LIVES DAY

in Jacksonville and encourage all citizens to join me in remembering Liam Elijah Wesley Boatwright and supporting grieving families who have experienced the loss of a pregnancy or infant.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, this 9th day of November in the year Two Thousand and Eighteen

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MAYOR

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA