

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), a lifelong developmental disability that appears by age 2, can affect anyone regardless of race, gender, ethnicity or socioeconomic background. Levels of impairment vary, and those "on the spectrum" may exhibit difficulties with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech, nonverbal communications, and behavioral skills; and

WHEREAS: With three million people – as many as 1 in 68 children – diagnosed nationally, autism is the fastest growing developmental disability in the United States. Northeast Florida has nearly 25,000 individuals on the spectrum; and

WHEREAS: While there is no cure, efforts to effectively address autism are ongoing. Early detection, intervention, and support services can help individuals with ASD develop and lead distinguished, productive lives in their communities; and

WHEREAS: The City of Jacksonville's Disabled Services Division is proud to partner with Making Strides For Autism, Inc., for the Friends With Autism Initiative, which provides support, training and advocacy for local individuals with autism and their families. This program is designed to create more autism-friendly businesses, provide sensory bags, improve accommodations and support, offer community health education about autism and sensory awareness, and provide career experience and jobs for autistic adults throughout the community.

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

AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

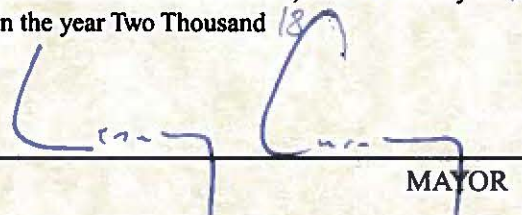
and hereby designate April 2, 2018 as

AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

in Jacksonville and encourage all citizens to spread awareness of the impact of autism in our community and support the organizations and businesses that are leading efforts to improve the lives of those with autism.



IN WITNESS THEREOF, this 26th day of March
in the year Two Thousand 18


MAYOR

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA