

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a lifelong developmental disability that 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: Autism is the fastest growing developmental disability in the United States. In 2018, the Center for Disease Control determined that approximately 1 in 59 children are diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD), and Northeast Florida has nearly 28,000 individuals on the spectrum; and

WHEREAS: While there is no cure, efforts to effectively address autism are ongoing. Notwithstanding these diagnoses, Americans with ASD make exceptional contributions to the Jacksonville community; and

WHEREAS: The City of Jacksonville's Disabled Services Division supports a number of organizations dedicated to serving citizens with needs. Making Strides For Autism, Inc., is no exception as they partner with them for the Friends With Autism Initiative, which provides support, training and advocacy for local individuals with autism and their families.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LENNY CURRY, by virtue of the authority vested in me as mayor of Jacksonville, Florida, do hereby proclaim April 2019 as

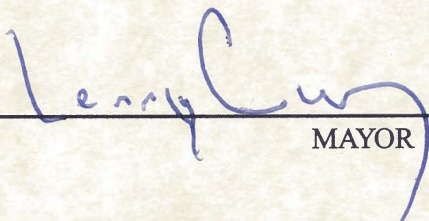
AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

and hereby designate April 2, 2019 as

AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

in Jacksonville and encourage all citizens to increase awareness of the impact of autism in our community and support 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 19


MAYOR

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA