



PROCLAMATION

ONE CITY. ONE JACKSONVILLE.

WHEREAS: In 1899, Jacksonville native James Weldon Johnson wrote the poem "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing" and his brother, John Rosamond Johnson, set the poem to music to honor President Abraham Lincoln's birthday; and

WHEREAS: After its release, the song spread across the South and other parts of the country, eventually becoming known as the "Black National Anthem" and the official song for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); and

WHEREAS: The Jacksonville James Weldon Johnson Branch of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) was formed June 6, 1995 to improve racial harmony and social justice by a group of African American Commissioners in 1995; and

WHEREAS: The mission of the ASALH is to promote, research, preserve, interpret, and disseminate information about Black life, history, and culture to the community; and

WHEREAS: This year, the Jacksonville's James Weldon Johnson Branch for ASALH celebrates the 25th Anniversary of its formation along with the 149th Birthday Celebration of James Weldon Johnson.

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

**THE 149TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION OF JAMES WELDON JOHNSON
AND THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JACKSONVILLE JAMES WELDON
JOHNSON BRANCH FOR ASALH**

and encourage all citizens to honor Jacksonville's African American history.



IN WITNESS THEREOF, this 26th day of June
in the year Two Thousand 20

Lenny Curry

MAYOR

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA