



# PROCLAMATION

ONE CITY. ONE JACKSONVILLE.

**WHEREAS:** Dental disease is a common cause of medical and emergency room visits. Medications and common chronic illnesses in older adults, such as diabetes or heart disease, put seniors at an increased risk for dental problems; and

**WHEREAS:** Access to senior dental care continues to be a problem due to lack of benefits upon retirement. 11% of Jacksonville's population is made up of residents ages 65 and older. Jacksonville has 51 long-term care facilities, over 63 assisted living facilities, 86 senior living communities, 20 senior community centers, and 19 adult daycares; and

**WHEREAS:** Unfortunately, many long-term care facility residents experience poor oral health due to reduced access to professional dental services and difficulty maintaining effective oral self-care. While many long-term care residents may receive professional oral care services periodically, daily oral hygiene, which is considered an essential need, is often a neglected part of nursing home care; and

**WHEREAS:** In an effort to spread awareness about the importance of senior dental health, The Geriatric Toothfairy LLC, established by local dental hygienist Sonya Dunbar, provides free oral cancer screening, donates oral care supplies, and provides oral care education to Jacksonville's Senior Community Centers, long-term care facilities, and assisted living facilities; and

**WHEREAS:** Good oral health of elderly residents is essential for general health. Many long-term care residents do not receive the daily oral care necessary for quality of life. Senior Dental Health Day is essential to bring much-needed awareness to senior oral care to keep seniors from becoming sick from poor oral hygiene.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, LENNY CURRY,** by virtue of the authority vested in me as mayor of Jacksonville, Florida, do hereby proclaim November 9, 2020 as

## SENIOR DENTAL HEALTH DAY

in Jacksonville and encourage all citizens to recognize the importance of oral care for elders in our community.



IN WITNESS THEREOF, this *5th* day of *November*  
in the year Two Thousand *Twenty*

*Lenny Curry*

MAYOR

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA