

PROCLAMATION

ONE CITY. ONE JACKSONVILLE.

WHEREAS: Each year in April, Autism Awareness Month is recognized nationally to raise awareness about Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and the effects it can have on individuals starting as early as 2 years old; and

WHEREAS: 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, speech, repetitive behaviors, nonverbal communications, and behavioral skills; and

WHEREAS: Autism is the fastest growing developmental disability in the United States with approximately 1 in 54 children being diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network data; and

WHEREAS: In Florida, the number of individuals who are diagnosed with ASD has reached over 330,000; and

WHEREAS: While there is no cure for ASD, efforts to effectively tackle autism are continuing and, despite these diagnoses, Americans with ASD make extraordinary contributions to the Jacksonville community; and

WHEREAS: The City of Jacksonville's Disabled Services Division supports numerous organizations committed to serving citizens with needs and Making Strides For Autism, Inc., is no exception as they provide support, training, and advocacy for local individuals with autism and their families, and their programs 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.

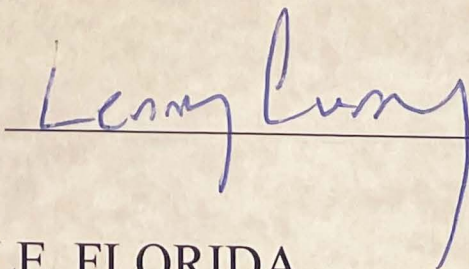
NOW, THEREFORE, I, LENNY CURRY, by virtue of the authority vested in me as mayor of Jacksonville, Florida, do hereby proclaim April 2021 as

AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

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



IN WITNESS THEREOF, this *2nd* day of *April*
in the year Two Thousand *21*


MAYOR

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA