



PROCLAMATION

ONE CITY. ONE JACKSONVILLE.

WHEREAS: In 60% of Duval County Public Schools in the 2020-2021 school year, less than half of the students were reading at grade level; and

WHEREAS: Children who do not learn to read at grade level by third grade will not be sufficiently prepared for the rest of their educational journey. Children who are not proficient readers by the fourth grade are likely to struggle to understand up to half of the curriculum as they continue their education; and

WHEREAS: Four out of five students who failed to earn a high school diploma were struggling readers in third grade; and

WHEREAS: Low literacy is associated with poor adherence to medical treatment and less knowledge of basic information on health or the health system. Low literacy can increase the chances of pre-teen alcohol use, depression, physical fighting that requires medical attention, and carrying a weapon to school; and

WHEREAS: Kids Hope Alliance, the Jacksonville Public Education Fund and Jacksonville Public Library are guiding the collaboration of more than 30 organizations across Jacksonville to build READ JAX to raise awareness about the birth-to-third-grade literacy pathway as foundational for each child; and

WHEREAS: READ JAX will build infrastructure to promote comprehensive, data-driven services, programming, and practices for children and families along the birth-to-third-grade pathway; and

WHEREAS: Each year a week-long, community-wide event will be held to acknowledge the efforts of partners joined together within READ JAX and their progress towards improving reading proficiency for local youth.

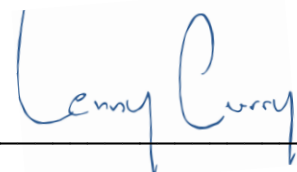
NOW, THEREFORE, I, LENNY CURRY, by virtue of the authority vested in me as mayor of Jacksonville, Florida, do hereby proclaim March 21-25, 2022 as

CELEBRATE READING WEEK

in Jacksonville and encourage all citizens to engage in activities that help Jacksonville's children build their reading skills and to recognize the work of Jacksonville's READ JAX literacy-championing organizations.



IN WITNESS THEREOF, this 11th Day of March in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Two

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lenny Curry".

MAYOR

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA