



# PROCLAMATION

ONE CITY. ONE JACKSONVILLE.

**WHEREAS:** Jacksonville is proud to host an array of citizens from diverse ethnic, cultural, and racial backgrounds. Currently, Jacksonville is home to the third largest population of Arab Americans in the United States; and

**WHEREAS:** Arab American families began immigrating to the United States since the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Starting in the 1940s, Arab American families began developing a strong presence in Jacksonville; and

**WHEREAS:** Today, approximately 40,000 Arab Americans reside in Jacksonville; and

**WHEREAS:** Arab Americans have played a strong role in Jacksonville's development, serving as business owners, civic leaders, and valued community members; and

**WHEREAS:** Their resilient family values, strong work ethic, and dedication to education and diversity of faith have added to the strength of the Jacksonville community, and play a role in creating a city and community free of hatred and bigotry; and

**WHEREAS:** Jacksonville continues to honor the history, customs, and traditions of our Arab American community members and recognize the vital role they play in shaping Jacksonville's shared history and culture.

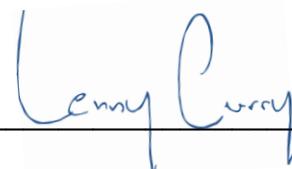
**NOW, THEREFORE, I, LENNY CURRY,** by virtue of the authority vested in me as mayor of Jacksonville, Florida, do hereby proclaim April 2023 as

## **ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH**

in Jacksonville and encourage all citizens to honor the contributions of the large Arab American community in Jacksonville.



IN WITNESS THEREOF, this 1st Day of March in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Three.

  
MAYOR

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA