



PROCLAMATION

ONE CITY. ONE JACKSONVILLE.

WHEREAS: The Gullah/Geechee Nation consists of a group of people ranging from Jacksonville, North Carolina to Jacksonville, Florida; and

WHEREAS: Originating from contact between enslaved people of African descent and the people indigenous to the Southern United States' Low Country, Gullah/Geechee people developed a unique Gullah language and culture. Descendants reside throughout the Southeastern Low Country, on all the Sea Islands, and thirty-five miles inland of the St. Johns River; and

WHEREAS: The Gullah/Geechee people were officially recognized as a nation internationally on July 2, 2000. During this time, they elected their first head of state, official spokesperson, and queen mother, Queen Quet; and

WHEREAS: In 2006, President George W. Bush enacted the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Act, designating the coastal areas of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida as a Gullah/Geechee National Heritage Area; and

WHEREAS: Jacksonville, Florida is proud to be home to the largest population of Gullah/Geechee people in the Southeast, and serves as a focal point for the celebration of Gullah/Geechee arts and culture; and

WHEREAS: The theme of this year's Gullah/Geechee Nation Appreciation Week is "Celebrating Gullah/Geechee Resiliency"; and

WHEREAS: Jacksonville recognizes and honors the impact of Gullah/Geechee culture throughout Jacksonville and the region and celebrates the living descendants of this unique nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONNA DEEGAN, by virtue of the authority vested in me as mayor of Jacksonville, Florida, do hereby proclaim July 29 – August 5, 2023 as

GULLAH/GEECHEE NATION APPRECIATION WEEK

in Jacksonville and encourage all citizens to celebrate Gullah/Geechee culture and recognize the history and contributions of the Gullah/Geechee people.



IN WITNESS THEREOF, this 13th Day of July in the year
Two Thousand and Twenty-Three.



MAYOR

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA