

# PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS:** Mental health is an essential component to overall health and well-being; and

**WHEREAS:** Mental health conditions are real and prevalent in our nation, and symptoms can vary in severity and appearance depending on the diagnosis, current circumstances, or individual. Americans of all ages, genders, races and socioeconomic status can experience times of difficulty and stress in their lives; and

**WHEREAS:** According to the National Institute of Mental Health, 43.8 million adults in America experience mental illness in a given year. One-half of all chronic mental illness begins by the age of 14 and three-quarters by the age of 24; and

**WHEREAS:** The stigma surrounding mental illness can cause sufferers to delay or neglect seeking treatment. With early and effective diagnoses and treatment, individuals with mental health conditions can manage their needs and lead full, productive lives; and

**WHEREAS:** Each business, school, government agency, healthcare provider, organization and citizen shares a responsibility to promote mental wellness and support prevention efforts.

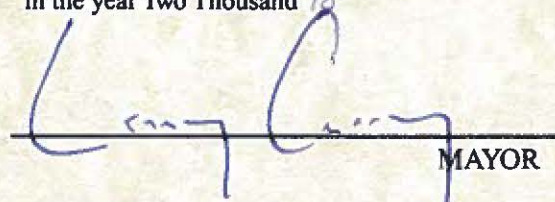
**NOW, THEREFORE, I, LENNY CURRY,** by virtue of the authority vested in me as mayor of Jacksonville, Florida, do hereby proclaim May 2018 as

## **MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH**

in Jacksonville and encourage all citizens to increase awareness and understanding of mental health, commit to taking steps to protect their own mental health, and recognize the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental health needs.



IN WITNESS THEREOF, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March  
in the year Two Thousand 18

  
MAYOR

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA