

# PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS:** Speech develops effortlessly in most children, but children with disorders like Childhood Apraxia of Speech (CAS) struggle. CAS is among the most severe speech deficits in children and affects approximately one in every 1,000 children; and

**WHEREAS:** Without appropriate speech therapy intervention, children with apraxia are at high risk of secondary developmental challenges in reading, writing, spelling, and other related skills, which in turn affects their future; and

**WHEREAS:** Early diagnosis and intervention via appropriate, intensive and frequent speech therapy are keys to improving the communication difficulties faced by children with CAS; and

**WHEREAS:** There is a need for greater public awareness about childhood apraxia of speech, particularly among those in the education, medical and government sectors; and

**WHEREAS:** Advocates should encourage insurance providers, schools, and policymakers to recognize the critical need to provide adequate speech therapy and other services so that the impact of this disorder is minimized and affected children can grow into productive, contributing adults; and

**WHEREAS:** To raise awareness of CAS, each May 14 is recognized as Apraxia Awareness Day, with 2018 marking its fourth observance.

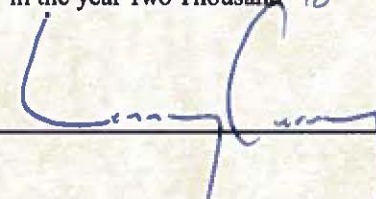
**NOW, THEREFORE, I, LENNY CURRY,** by virtue of the authority vested in me as mayor of Jacksonville, Florida, do hereby proclaim May 14, 2018 as

## **APRAXIA AWARENESS DAY**

in Jacksonville and encourage all citizens to learn more about Childhood Apraxia of Speech and recognize the need for speech therapy and support for children with the disorder.



IN WITNESS THEREOF, this 4<sup>th</sup> day of May  
in the year Two Thousand 18

  
MAYOR

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA