

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: Lupus is a chronic autoimmune disease in which the immune system inexplicably and randomly attacks the body's own tissues and virtually every organ system. It is a leading cause of premature cardiovascular disease, kidney disease and stroke among young women; and

WHEREAS: Approximately 1.5 million Americans, including 100,000 Floridians, are directly affected by lupus, with thousands newly diagnosed each year. They are disproportionately young, female, and of color; and

WHEREAS: Lupus is one of the most difficult diseases to diagnose because its symptoms mimic those of other diseases and may not be observed consistently, and no single test can definitively identify the illness. Early diagnosis and treatment are vital to lessen the progression and severity of the disease, and to preserve health and prevent further complications, organ damage, and death; and

WHEREAS: Many with lupus suffer for years before obtaining a correct diagnosis and medical treatment. Increasing public awareness of lupus and its devastating impact on patients' lives will assist with earlier diagnoses and provide hope for those affected; and

WHEREAS: First Coast Lupus Fight, in collaboration with Higher Learning Hoops International, works to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of lupus and to promote education, research, social support, and quality medical care for Jacksonville citizens who live with, or care for, someone who struggles with the disease.

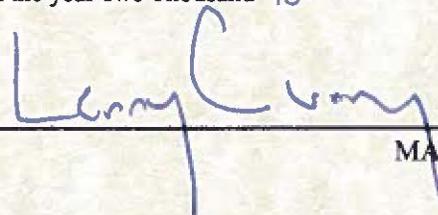
NOW, THEREFORE, I, LENNY CURRY, by virtue of the authority vested in me as mayor of Jacksonville, Florida, do hereby proclaim May 2018 as

LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH

in Jacksonville and encourage all citizens to learn about this devastating illness that affects so many women, and support research toward improved treatments and a cure.



IN WITNESS THEREOF, this 1st day of May
in the year Two Thousand 18


MAYOR

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA