



PROCLAMATION

ONE CITY. ONE JACKSONVILLE.

WHEREAS: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida is a youth empowerment organization that enables life-changing mentoring relationships to ignite the power and promise of youth in our community; and

WHEREAS: January 2022 will mark the 20th anniversary of National Mentoring Month, an annual campaign to focus attention on the need for mentors, as well as how each of us can work together to increase the number of mentors to help ensure positive outcomes for our young people; and

WHEREAS: Mentoring programs like Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida make our communities and our state stronger by driving impactful relationships that increase social capital for young people and provide invaluable support networks; and

WHEREAS: During the COVID-19 pandemic, mentoring programs have stepped up to fill gaps for young people and families, connecting them with resources and ensuring that mentoring relationships continue virtually to ensure that physical distancing does not mean social disconnection; and

WHEREAS: Mentoring plays a pivotal role in career exploration and supports workplace skills. Students who regularly meet with their mentors are 52% less likely to skip school and 46% less likely to start using drugs than their peers; and

WHEREAS: Investing in young people's futures pays off, with a social return on investment of \$18-to-1 through improved economic, health, and social outcomes for young people with mentors.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LENNY CURRY, by virtue of the authority vested in me as mayor of Jacksonville, Florida, do hereby proclaim January, 2022 as

NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

in Jacksonville and encourage all citizens to celebrate, elevate, and encourage mentoring across the state and to consider becoming a mentor today.



IN WITNESS THEREOF, this 3rd day of Jan.
in the year Two Thousand Twenty-two

MAYOR

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA