



# PROCLAMATION

ONE CITY. ONE JACKSONVILLE.

**WHEREAS:** National Healthcare Decisions Day is recognized across the country on April 16 to raise public awareness of the need to plan ahead for health-care decisions, especially those related to end of life care and medical decision-making when patients are unable to speak for themselves, and to encourage the specific use of advanced directives to communicate these important health care decisions; and

**WHEREAS:** A large percentage of Jacksonville residents have not yet prepared for healthcare decisions in times of crisis or at end of life, nor had important conversations with their families, loved ones, and their healthcare providers and documented those decisions; and

**WHEREAS:** The lack of preparation is likely a significant factor for these low percentages due to both a lack of awareness and an uncertainty in the public about advanced directives; and

**WHEREAS:** One of the primary goals of National Healthcare Decisions Day is to draw attention to this issue and provide clear and consistent information to the public about advanced directives, as well as to encourage medical professionals and lawyers to volunteer their time and efforts to improve public knowledge and increase the number of citizens with advanced directives; and

**WHEREAS:** Haven Hospice in Jacksonville endorses this annual event and is committed to educating the public during the month of April about the importance of discussing healthcare related choices and executing advanced directives to make their wishes known; and

**WHEREAS:** The COVID-19 pandemic makes advanced care planning even more important with every age group being impacted and over a quarter-million deaths attributed to the virus throughout the country.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, LENNY CURRY,** by virtue of the authority vested in me as mayor of Jacksonville, Florida, do hereby proclaim April 16, 2021 as

## NATIONAL HEALTHCARE DECISIONS DAY

in Jacksonville and encourage all citizens to raise awareness and provide clear and consistent information to the public about advance directives and encourage medical professionals and lawyers to volunteer their time and efforts to improve public knowledge and increase the number of citizens with advance directives.



IN WITNESS THEREOF, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March  
in the year Two Thousand '21

*Lenny Curry*

MAYOR

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA