

# PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS:** Consistent nutrition among children contributes to improved health, increased school attendance, better test scores and reading skills, and positive behavior. In Duval County, one in four children is food insecure, meaning they don't always know from where their next meal will come; and

**WHEREAS:** Childhood hunger can cause lifelong health problems, such as weakened immune systems, increased hospitalization rates and impaired neural development; and

**WHEREAS:** Blessings in a Backpack, a national nonprofit organization celebrating its 10th birthday this year, provides elementary school children in the federal free and reduced-price meal program (National School Lunch Program) with food to take home on weekends during the school year. About half of the children in Duval County Public Schools are eligible for free and reduced-price meals; and

**WHEREAS:** Relying on the generosity of donors, First Coast Blessings in a Backpack volunteers pack low-preparation, nutritious staples for children in Duval County and St. Johns County public schools. A \$100 donation feeds a child each weekend for an entire school year; and

**WHEREAS:** The City of Jacksonville supports all efforts to improve the health and well-being of our children, ensuring they have every opportunity to be successful in school and in life.

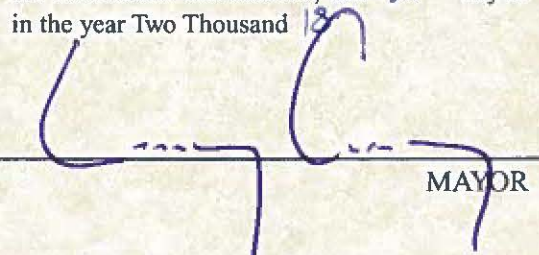
**NOW, THEREFORE, I, LENNY CURRY,** by virtue of the authority vested in me as mayor of Jacksonville, Florida, do hereby proclaim Thursday, September 27, 2018 as

## **BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK DAY**

in Jacksonville and encourage all citizens to join me in recognizing the organization for its efforts to fight childhood hunger in Northeast Florida and across the country.



IN WITNESS THEREOF, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of September  
in the year Two Thousand 18

  
MAYOR

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA