



PROCLAMATION

ONE CITY. ONE JACKSONVILLE.

WHEREAS: 2021 marks the 20th year that April is recognized as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Florida, and calls attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and impacts every person in our community; and

WHEREAS: The City of Jacksonville recognizes the importance of raising public awareness about sexual violence; providing education on its impacts to the individual, loved ones, and society as a whole; and, encourages our community response to sexual violence, a critical concern for victims of sexual violence, and a desire to support their needs for justice and healing; and

WHEREAS: Each year, the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office receives hundreds of reports of sexual battery, and the Women's Center of Jacksonville's Rape Recovery Team serves the needs of hundreds of victims by performing adult forensic exams, providing counseling, and numerous other services that help victims heal from the trauma of sexual assault; and

WHEREAS: Research shows that sexual assault victims are significantly more likely to disclose their sexual assault to a friend or family member, and when these loved ones respond with doubt, shame, or blame, victims suffer additional negative effects on their physical and psychological well-being; and

WHEREAS: The theme of this year's Sexual Assault Awareness Month campaign in Florida is "I AM" and is aimed to recognize and honor the variability in victims' and survivors' backgrounds, healing processes and outlets, and represents individuals choosing how they want to present and identify themselves to the world, and invites community members to champion local and individual level responses; and

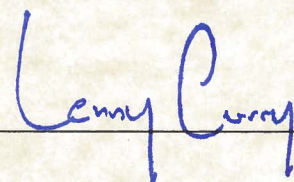
WHEREAS: The City of Jacksonville and its partners at the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and the Women's Center of Jacksonville understand the importance of this issue and not only utilizes the month of April to bring awareness but makes use of each day of the year as an opportunity to create change for the future.

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

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

in Jacksonville and encourage all citizens to join advocates and community members in raising awareness about sexual violence and fostering a victim-supportive environment that empowers survivors to seek support and services.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, this 10th day of March
in the year Two Thousand 21



MAYOR

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA