



PROCLAMATION

ONE CITY. ONE JACKSONVILLE.

WHEREAS: The Infant Mortality Rate represents the number of babies out of every 1,000 live births who die before their first birthday. The figure is examined in our region each year by the Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition, with funding from the Florida Department of Health, in a review called Project IMPACT. In 2019, Duval County's infant mortality rate was 8 deaths per 1,000 live births; and

WHEREAS: This rate is an indicator of the health of a community. While the national average dropped to 5.7 in 2019, Duval County's rate rose to 7.9 per 1,000 live births. The national rate is among the highest for developed nations; and

WHEREAS: Many infant deaths can be traced to preventable causes and lack of health services. Leading causes of death include congenital malformations; short gestation and low birth weight; maternal complications; sudden unexpected infant death (SUID); and unintentional injury; and

WHEREAS: Jacksonville's Health Zone 1, which includes much of the Downtown and Westside areas, shows higher levels of poverty, lower educational attainment, and higher rates of health conditions. Increasing the overall health of women preconception in these areas will reduce the rate of Infant Mortality; and

WHEREAS: Since 1991, the state Healthy Start program and 32 community-led Healthy Start Coalitions have worked to reduce infant mortality and improve the health of all children, childbearing women, and their families throughout Florida; and

WHEREAS: The National Infant Mortality Awareness Month campaign, held each September, was created to increase awareness around the high rates of infant deaths; and

WHEREAS: As we continually work to improve health outcomes in Jacksonville, our work to increase access to and availability of quality health offerings must include prenatal and postnatal care for mothers, fathers, and babies to give every child the best chance to reach his or her first birthday and beyond.

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

INFANT MORTALITY AWARENESS MONTH

in Jacksonville and encourage all citizens to take steps to learn about the Infant Mortality Crisis and promote resources to help decrease the infant mortality rate in our community.



IN WITNESS THEREOF, this 6th day of Aug.
in the year Two Thousand 21

MAYOR

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA