



# PROCLAMATION

ONE CITY. ONE JACKSONVILLE.

**WHEREAS:** According to the 2020 Census, almost 10% of Duval County residents claim some level of Irish heritage; and

**WHEREAS:** The Irish first came to Spanish “*La Florida*” in the 1500s, serving as missionaries, mercenaries, planters, traders, businessmen, doctors and administrators; and

**WHEREAS:** Around 1600, Fr. Richard Arthur, an Irish-born priest, established the first public school in North America. This school was located in St. Augustine, Florida and taught boys and girls of all races; and

**WHEREAS:** Andrew Jackson, first United States Governor of Florida, Future United States President, and namesake of Jacksonville, was of Irish heritage; and

**WHEREAS:** Twenty-two Presidents have claimed Irish Heritage, and Irish leaders and thinkers helped lay the ideological and physical foundations onto which the United States would be built; and

**WHEREAS:** The United States, Florida, and Duval County all continue to benefit greatly from the rich cultural heritage and valuable contributions of Irish Americans.

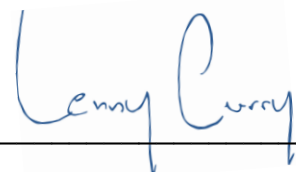
**NOW, THEREFORE, I, LENNY CURRY,** by virtue of the authority vested in me as mayor of Jacksonville, Florida, do hereby proclaim March 2022 as

## **IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH**

in Jacksonville and encourage all citizens to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments and rich cultural heritage of our Irish American residents.



IN WITNESS THEREOF, this 23rd Day of Feb. in the year  
Two Thousand and Twenty-Two

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lenny Curry".

MAYOR

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA