



PROCLAMATION

ONE CITY. ONE JACKSONVILLE.

WHEREAS: The disability experience is a natural part of life and is valued as a part of our rich diversity, yet the disability community is underrepresented in literary works; and

WHEREAS: Disability is a social construct. The issue at hand is not the presence of a medical condition residing within the individual, but that society does not create welcoming, supporting environment for all. Inclusion is essential at all levels within the community; and

WHEREAS: While the public is aware of inclusion of race, religion, political persuasion, and other identifiers, there is a limited awareness of disability inclusion in literature, and the burden of awareness has fallen to the shoulders of those impacted by disabilities, either indirectly or directly; and

WHEREAS: The most effective way to increase awareness to learn and acknowledge that there are systemic barriers preventing individuals with disabilities from enjoying equitable experiences; and

WHEREAS: Equitable experiences and full inclusion are a matter of social justice. Consequently, creating equitable inclusive environments is a shared responsibility of everyone; and

WHEREAS: The advocacy effort, Disability Book Week, is dedicated to increasing awareness and inclusion of authors with disabilities and books featuring characters with disabilities, as well as supporting literacy efforts in order to support and benefit individuals with disabilities and provide the opportunity for all to identify with, and see themselves represented in, published literary works.

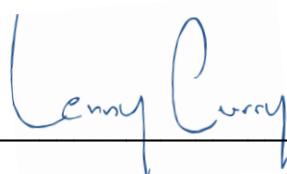
NOW, THEREFORE, I, LENNY CURRY, by virtue of the authority vested in me as mayor of Jacksonville, Florida, do hereby proclaim April 23 – 29, 2022 as

DISABILITY BOOK WEEK

in Jacksonville and encourage all citizens to recognize the value of the disability experience and raise awareness of the barriers presented to individuals with disabilities and create ways to include everyone in all aspects of life.



IN WITNESS THEREOF, this 22nd day of April in the year
Two Thousand and Twenty-Two


MAYOR