

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: Approximately 50 million Americans live with an autoimmune disease, according to estimates by the American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association. The more than 100 autoimmune diseases include Crohn's disease, celiac disease, multiple sclerosis, type 1 diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, vasculitis, and Addison's disease; and

WHEREAS: For those with an autoimmune disease, the body's immune system mistakenly attacks healthy cells. There are a variety of symptoms, depending on the diagnosis, with some diseases targeting one organ, while others affect the whole body; and

WHEREAS: Although some autoimmune diseases have shown to be more common in certain ethnic groups, they can affect people of all races, genders, and backgrounds. There is often a genetic link, with diagnoses of any autoimmune condition prevalent among several members of the same family; and

WHEREAS: About 75 percent of autoimmune diseases occur in women. Combined, autoimmune diseases are one of the top 10 causes of death among women under the age of 65; and

WHEREAS: There is no known cure for autoimmune diseases. A diagnosis means undergoing lifestyle changes to manage and minimize symptoms; and

WHEREAS: As we seek to improve the overall well-being of Jacksonville citizens, focusing public attention on the prevalence of autoimmune diseases may assist with faster diagnoses and expanded treatment efforts for those affected in our city.

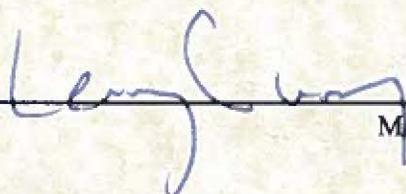
NOW, THEREFORE, I, LENNY CURRY, by virtue of the authority vested in me as mayor of Jacksonville, Florida, do hereby proclaim March 2018 as

AUTOIMMUNE DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

in Jacksonville and encourage all citizens to educate themselves on these life-altering diseases and recognize the need for research funding, accurate diagnoses and effective treatments.



IN WITNESS THEREOF, this 27th day of February
in the year Two Thousand 18


MAYOR

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA