



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: More than 400,000 Floridians were among the approximately 7 million Americans who reported a vision-related disability in 2015; and

WHEREAS: The white cane utilized by many blind citizens demonstrates and symbolizes the ability to achieve a full and independent life and the capacity to work competitively and productively in employment; and

WHEREAS: By allowing the ability to move freely and safely from place to place, the white cane makes it possible for the blind to fully participate in and contribute to our society; and

WHEREAS: President Lyndon Johnson proclaimed the first official White Cane Safety Day on October 15, 1964. In 2011, President Barack Obama further declared it Blind Americans Equality Day; and

WHEREAS: Every citizen should be aware that the law requires that motorists and cyclists exercise appropriate caution when approaching a blind pedestrian carrying a white cane; and

WHEREAS: The City of Jacksonville's Disabled Services Division supports and advocates for the needs and rights of our blind citizens, including working collaboratively with local organizations like the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) of Florida's Greater Jacksonville Chapter; and

WHEREAS: For this year's observance of White Cane Awareness Day, the NFB's Greater Jacksonville Chapter will visit the St. Johns Town Center on Saturday, October 13, to share information and raise awareness of the needs and rights of white cane users.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LENNY CURRY, by virtue of the authority vested in me as mayor of Jacksonville, Florida, do hereby proclaim October 15, 2018 as

WHITE CANE AWARENESS DAY

in Jacksonville and encourage all citizens to recognize the white cane as a tool of independence for our blind community and urge employers to open new opportunities for the blind.



IN WITNESS THEREOF, this 11th day of October in the year Two Thousand and Eighteen

MAYOR

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA