



# PROCLAMATION

ONE CITY. ONE JACKSONVILLE.

**WHEREAS:** In 2011, Dr. Jaqueline Bouvier Copeland of the Pan-African Women's Philanthropy Network (PAWPNet) and The WISE Fund established the month of August as Black Philanthropy Month to celebrate individuals of African-descent giving in all its forms; and

**WHEREAS:** Black communities have vested reasons to celebrate and renew their rich, shared traditions of giving, self-help and innovation through the U.S. and the world, and now, in its 10<sup>th</sup> year, the national theme for this year's Black Philanthropy Month is 'TENacity: Making Equity Real'; and

**WHEREAS:** Throughout the country, black households donate 25 percent more of their income than white households on average each year with two-thirds of the monies being donated to community-based organizations and causes, totaling \$11 billion per year according to a joint 2012 study from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors; and

**WHEREAS:** Jacksonville has a rich history of Black philanthropy including A.L. Lewis, co-founder and president of the Afro American Life Insurance Company, who was Florida's first Black millionaire and led the land purchase of American Beach. He was a generous contributor to many causes, including Edward Waters University and Bethune Cookman; and

**WHEREAS:** One of his employees, Eartha M.M. White, went on to become a successful businesswoman in her own right, and with her mother Clara she established the Eartha White Nursing Home. And when the nursing home was sold, the proceeds created the Eartha M.M. White Legacy Fund at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, which continues to make grants to support humanitarian causes in Northeast Florida; and

**WHEREAS:** The Jacksonville community and the City of Jacksonville recognize the importance and difference that black philanthropy makes in our community by delivering funding to churches, nonprofit, and fraternal organizations that provide support for education, health, and economic empowerment efforts and programming.

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

## BLACK PHILANTHROPY MONTH

in Jacksonville and encourage all citizens to recognize and celebrate the significant role of Black philanthropy in improving the lives of the citizens of Jacksonville, and to encourage others to support those nonprofit organizations that are instrumental to improving social, educational, economic, and health outcomes in Black communities.



IN WITNESS THEREOF, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of *July*  
in the year Two Thousand 21

*Lenny Curry*

MAYOR

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA