

# PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS:** Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) is a disease of the motor nerve cells in the spinal cord that affects a person's ability to walk, crawl, eat, and breathe. It is the leading genetic cause of death for infants under age 2 and can affect any race, ethnicity, or gender; and

**WHEREAS:** Approximately one in 10,000 babies are born with SMA, and one in 50 Americans is a genetic carrier; and

**WHEREAS:** On December 23, 2016, the FDA approved the first-ever treatment for SMA, making this an historic year for the SMA Community. Access to treatment is limited, however, and remains out of reach to many; and

**WHEREAS:** Major breakthroughs in research have strengthened bodies and extended lives, making the goal of finding a cure increasingly attainable; and

**WHEREAS:** Increased awareness of SMA will lead to expanded knowledge and increased support for both research and affected families; and

**WHEREAS:** The non-profit organization Cure SMA, which has a Greater Florida chapter for families in our home state, has raised more than \$62 million for Spinal Muscular Atrophy research programs, leading to clinical trials and the discovery of new drugs that have provided new hope to families and patients.

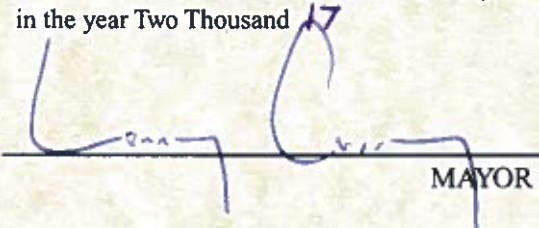
**NOW, THEREFORE, I, LENNY CURRY,** by virtue of the authority vested in me as mayor of Jacksonville, Florida, do hereby proclaim August 2017 as

## **SPINAL MUSCULAR ATROPHY AWARENESS MONTH**

in Jacksonville and call upon all residents to learn about this debilitating disease and its impact on the families in our great state.



IN WITNESS THEREOF, this 1<sup>st</sup> day of August  
in the year Two Thousand

  
MAYOR

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA