

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS:** National Minority Health Month was established to recognize health disparities among racial and ethnic populations, and to help address these disparities in an effort to improve health for the overall population; and
- WHEREAS:** Despite significant health improvements among our national population, disparities, including a lack of access to preventive healthcare and lack of health insurance, remain widespread among members of racial and ethnic minorities; and
- WHEREAS:** Illness and chronic disease may be prevented and managed by maintaining a healthy weight, eating healthy nutritious meals, being knowledgeable of family history and getting regular checkups and screenings; and
- WHEREAS:** Adult health issues such as diabetes, obesity, high blood pressure and high cholesterol levels are traced back to poor food choices and lack of physical activity that, often times, began during childhood; and
- WHEREAS:** With a focus on minority and school nutrition, the theme of National Minority Health Month 2011 is "Bring It or Buy It - Make Lunch Healthy, Green and Good!: In Schools, Even Food Can Teach Us a Lesson"; and
- WHEREAS:** High percentages of minority children participate in school lunch programs, making school food a critical factor in the health of minority children. In Florida, up to 75 percent of children in certain racial groups were eligible for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program in the 2010 school year; and
- WHEREAS:** School meals should link good nutrition and the ability to perform well academically, a pathway to lifelong health and learning; and
- WHEREAS:** The City of Jacksonville acknowledges that minority health is a priority for individuals, families and communities throughout the U.S.

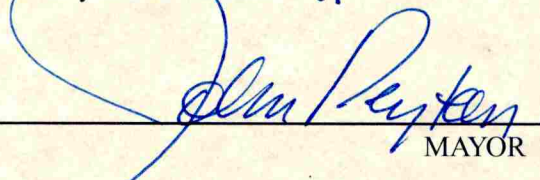
NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN PEYTON, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of Jacksonville, Florida, do hereby proclaim April 2011 as

NATIONAL MINORITY HEALTH MONTH

in Jacksonville and encourage all citizens to raise their awareness about the importance of nutrition in achieving optimum health and fitness for increased quality of life.



IN WITNESS THEREOF, this 7th day of April
in the year Two Thousand 11


MAYOR

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA