WHEREAS, Mike Jackson was born on February 7, 1949 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He attended Saint Joseph’s College in his hometown, graduating with a bachelor’s degree in political science in 1971; and

WHEREAS, Ironically, Mike Jackson’s illustrious career in the automotive industry began shortly after college when the 1959 Mercedes-Benz he was driving broke down. With little money for repairs, he negotiated a deal with the local Mercedes-Benz dealership to work off his bill. He quickly became fascinated with the car business and took a full-time job at the dealership as a service technician; and

WHEREAS, Mike Jackson could never have imagined that from these humble beginnings he would one day rise to become President and Chief Executive Officer of Mercedes-Benz USA, where he would engineer a complete company transformation, adding sportier, stylish vehicles, increasing market share among younger more affluent buyers, and elevating Mercedes-Benz to one of America’s best-selling luxury brands; and

WHEREAS, Impressed by his success at Mercedes-Benz, in 1999, H. Wayne Huizenga hired Mike Jackson to lead AutoNation and, over the ensuing two decades as Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President, Mike Jackson solidified AutoNation’s position as America’s largest automotive retailer while distinguishing the company as the industry’s standard bearer for customer focus, transparency, and corporate success; and

WHEREAS, Under Mike Jackson’s leadership, AutoNation is the only retailer in history to have sold nearly 12 million vehicles. The company employs more than 26,000 associates, generates nearly $22 billion in annual revenue, has been named America’s Most Admired Automotive Retailer by Fortune Magazine six times, and has been named one of America’s best corporate citizens by Forbes Magazine and Just Capital; and

WHEREAS, Mike Jackson’s business success has earned him numerous accolades, including the Sun-Sentinel’s 2006 Excalibur Award as South Florida’s Business Leader of the Year and South Florida CEO Magazine’s 2006 CEO of the Year. In 2011, Fortune Magazine named him one of the Top 50 Global Business Leaders. He is an 11-time member of the Automotive News “All-Star Team” of automotive executives, and in 2018, was inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Mike Jackson’s commitment to giving back is exemplified by his leadership in embracing breast cancer awareness as AutoNation’s corporate cause and, through the company’s “DRV PNK” campaign, raising and donating more than $18 million to fund cancer research and treatment facilities. In addition, AutoNation is a founding partner of the Broward Business Council on Homelessness, which has allocated and raised millions of dollars in funding to end homelessness in the City of Fort Lauderdale; and

WHEREAS, Mike Jackson’s outstanding professional contributions, tremendous civic engagement, and earnest commitment to building community have strengthened Fort Lauderdale’s position as a leading business center and, moving forward, will continue to play a key role in the progress and advancement of our City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA:

Section 1: That Mike Jackson is hereby selected and honored as Distinguished Citizen of the City of Fort Lauderdale for 2018 in recognition of his accomplishments and valuable contributions to the City of Fort Lauderdale and that the City Commission of the City of Fort Lauderdale hereby publicly recognizes and acknowledges these achievements and contributions and does hereby express its heartfelt appreciation to Mike Jackson.

Section 2: That a bronze plaque honoring Mike Jackson as Distinguished Citizen of the City of Fort Lauderdale for 2018 shall be placed in the courtyard of Fort Lauderdale City Hall, and his portrait shall hang in City Hall.

Section 3: That a copy of this proclamation and a keepsake recognizing Mike Jackson as the 2018 Distinguished Citizen shall be presented to him as a further token of the gratitude and appreciation of the City of Fort Lauderdale.

DATED this, the 28th day of February 2019.

Mayor Dean J. Trantalis