



Proclamation

WHEREAS the City of Polk City recognizes the importance of parents talking with their teens about alcohol in order to reduce the risks and dangers posed to teens and communities; and

WHEREAS high school students who use alcohol or other substances are five times more likely to drop out of school or believe good grades are not important; and

WHEREAS 27% of middle school students try alcohol before graduating from 8th grade, significantly increasing the risk that they will develop alcohol problems later in life; and

WHEREAS teen alcohol use kills 4,700 people each year, more than all other illegal drugs combined; and

WHEREAS the majority of kids say their parents are their primary influence when it comes to decisions about drinking alcohol; and

WHEREAS *PowerTalk 21*[®] day, started by Mothers Against Drunk Driving[®] (MADD) in 2011, is established on April 21, 2016, to encourage parents and caregivers to embrace their important role in influencing America's youth and their decisions about drinking alcohol; and

WHEREAS in 2016, MADD will kick off "21 Days in Support of 21," beginning on April 1st and culminating on *PowerTalk 21* on April 21st, as part of *Power of Parents*[®] program to create a sustained and prolonged conversation about underage drinking among middle school and high school students; and

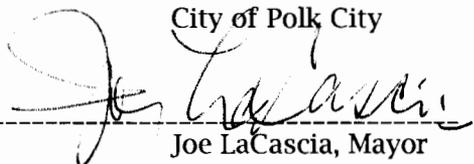
WHEREAS to equip parents to talk with their teens about alcohol, MADD Polk County will distribute *Power of Parent* handbooks to equip parents with the tools to effectively talk to their children about alcohol to protect them; and

WHEREAS I urge all citizens to join in the local and national efforts to raise awareness of the importance of parents and teens talking together about alcohol to reduce the risks and dangers posed to teens and communities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, do I Joe LaCascia, as the Mayor of Polk City, do hereby proclaim Thursday, April 21, 2016 to be:

PowerTalk 21[®] Day

City of Polk City



Joe LaCascia, Mayor

ATTEST:



City Manager/City Clerk