

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, tobacco use is the number one cause of preventable death among Black Americans,¹ and;

WHEREAS, tobacco use is a major contributor to three of the leading causes of death among Black Americans – heart disease, cancer and stroke– and Black Americans die from these conditions at far higher rates than other Americans,^{1,2} and;

WHEREAS, tobacco-related health disparities in the Black community are largely the result of the tobacco industry’s intentional, targeted efforts to hook generations of Black Americans to deadly and addictive products,^{1,2} and;

WHEREAS, for more than 60 years, the tobacco industry has deliberately targeted the Black community, especially youth, with marketing for menthol cigarettes and other tobacco products like flavored cigars,^{1,2,3,4} and;

WHEREAS, Tobacco Free Florida works year-round to highlight how tobacco use disproportionately affects certain disenfranchised populations, exposing tobacco use as a social justice issue, and;

WHEREAS, the Tobacco Free Polk Partnership and Polk County Students Working Against Tobacco - known as Polk County SWAT – will use the upcoming Tobacco Free Florida Week to draw attention to the root causes of tobacco’s deadly toll on Polk County’s Black population.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the City Commission of Lake Wales, Florida do hereby proclaim the week of April 25th to May 1st, 2021 as

TOBACCO FREE FLORIDA WEEK.

Eugene Fultz, Mayor

¹ Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids; The African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council (AATCLC); Association of Black Cardiologists, Inc.; Black Women’s Health Imperative; The Center for Black Health & Equity; NAACP; National Medical Association (NMA); National Black Nurses Association, Inc. (NBNA); The National Caucus and Center on Black Aging, Inc. (ncba); Save A Girl, Save A World; The Links, Incorporated. “Stopping Menthol, Saving Lives: Ending Big Tobacco’s Predatory Marketing to Black Communities.” Feb. 2021. Available online at: <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/what-we-do/industry-watch/menthol-report>. Last Accessed: March 30, 2021.

² US Department of Health and Human Services. “Tobacco Use Among U.S. Racial/Ethnic Minority Groups – African Americans, American Indians and Alaska Natives, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and Hispanics: A Report of the Surgeon General.” Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Office on Smoking and Health, 1998. Available online at: https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/sgr/1998/complete_report/pdfs/complete_report.pdf. Last Accessed: Mar 30, 2021.

³ Food and Drug Administration. “Preliminary Scientific Evaluation of the Possible Public Health Effects of Menthol Versus Nonmenthol Cigarettes.” 2013. Available online at: <https://www.fda.gov/media/86497/download>. Last Accessed: Mar 30, 2021.

⁴ National Cancer Institute. “The Role of the Media in Promoting and Reducing Tobacco use.” Smoking and Tobacco Control Monograph No. 19, NIH Pub. No. 07-6242. Available online at: <https://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/brp/tcrb/monographs/monograph-19>. Last Accessed: Mar 30, 2021.