

Allegheny County Council

Proclamation



WHEREAS, organizations in Allegheny County are dedicated to achieving peace and equality in today's world; and

WHEREAS, the Black and White Reunion, which was formed in 1996 to renew a collaborative spirit in addressing inequality and division in society, hosts the 14th Annual Summit Against Racism on January 21, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the summit is a celebration of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and is an opportunity for citizens to recommit to the struggle for civil rights, economic justice and peace for which Dr. King and many others have given their lives; and

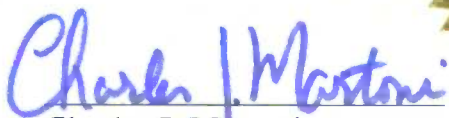
WHEREAS, during the summit speakers will address attendees regarding anti-racism activism, workshops will be offered to enhance activism awareness, and the film "What Does Trouble Mean? Nate Smith's Revolution," which chronicles the life of important labor figure Nate Smith, will be shown; and

WHEREAS, the summit builds off of the teachings of Dr. King, and it exhibits one of his essential teachings: social justice requires sacrifice, struggle and the tireless passion of dedicated individuals;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Allegheny County Council, on behalf of the citizens of Allegheny County, honors the Black and White Reunion for hosting the 14th Annual Summit Against Racism and for raising awareness of the need to recommit ourselves to civil rights, economic justice and peace. We commend the volunteers and organizers of the summit, and we hope it succeeds in bringing positive change to our region.



Sponsored by Allegheny County Council Members William Russell Robinson and Chuck Martoni, and presented this 10th day of January 2012.


Charles J. Martoni
President of Council

Attest:

Allegheny County Council



City of Pittsburgh

Text File

Introduced: 01/11/2000
Committee: City Council

Bill No: 2000-0006
Status: Adopted

SPONSORED BY: BOB O'CONNOR

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh; does hereby commend and thank The Black & White Reunion for their efforts to promote racial harmony among the people of Pittsburgh and encourages all citizens of the city to attend the second Pittsburgh Summit on Racism; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council, in recognition of this important event, does hereby declare Saturday, January 15, 2000, as "Building Bridges To End Racism In Pittsburgh Day" within the City of Pittsburgh.

WHEREAS, it has long been the established public policy of the City of Pittsburgh to break down racial barriers and to secure the civil rights of all citizens, regardless of their race, color, creed, sex or national origin. For in doing so, we are better able to secure a more peaceful and vibrant community wherein all people have the opportunity to pursue their life goals ~ free from racial bigotry and intimidation; and

WHEREAS, the Black & White Reunion will sponsor its second Pittsburgh Summit on Racism at the East Liberty Presbyterian Church in the City of Pittsburgh on January 15, 2000, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The theme of the day long event is entitled: "Building Bridges To End Racism in Pittsburgh", featuring workshops, entertainment and the unveiling of seven murals on the theme of "One America", created by the young people of our city; and,

WHEREAS, the Black & White Reunion serves as a model for interracial collaboration and reconciliation by partnering white and black individuals in shared leadership roles and highly visible projects that promote interracial harmony and, providing people of all racial and ethnic backgrounds with opportunities to make meaningful contributions in the cause of racial equality; and,

WHEREAS, the Pittsburgh Summit on Racism is day long event, allowing people to educate themselves to the issues presented by racism, to explore creative and effective ways to affirm the message of racial tolerance on a daily basis and, to celebrate the memory and message of Dr. Martin Luther King, who in the 1960's, placed the issue of racial equality at the forefront of America's political and social consciousness ~ challenging us as a nation to stand up for the civil rights of all people in an unyielding, yet peaceful way.

Finally, that any Ordinance or Resolution or part thereof conflicting with the provisions of this Proclamation, is hereby repealed so far as the same affects this Proclamation.



City of Pittsburgh

Text File

Introduced: 03/21/2000
Committee: City Council

Bill No: 2000-0295
Status: Adopted

**SPONSORED BY: BOB O'CONNOR; BARBARA BURNS; DAN COHEN; MICHAEL DIVEN;
JIM FERLO; ALAN HERTZBERG; VALERIE MCDONALD AND SALA
UDIN**

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby extend its appreciation to the Department of General Services for its assistance on this project and does hereby commend and thank The Black & White Reunion for their efforts to promote racial harmony among the people of Pittsburgh and encourages all citizens of the city to visit the Mural Bridge Project on display in the lobby of the City County Building; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council, in recognition of this important event, does hereby declare Tuesday, March 21, 2000, as "Mural Bridge Project Day" within the City of Pittsburgh.

WHEREAS, the Black & White Reunion is a racially diverse group of Allegheny County citizens, founded in 1996 by NAACP President, Tim Stevens; and,

WHEREAS, the mission of the Black & White Reunion is to build bridges between black and white citizens and communities in Western Pennsylvania; and,

WHEREAS, the Black and White Reunion brings together organizations and individuals currently working to counter racism in an ongoing process of partnership on initiatives through collective efforts such as the Mural Bridge Project; and,

WHEREAS, the Mural Bridge Project's purpose is to bring together Pittsburgh youth to develop, create and display painted murals that reflect the theme of One America in the 21st Century; and,

WHEREAS, the Mural Bridge Project involved creating portable murals, which were unveiled at the January 15, 2000 Pittsburgh Summit on Racism; and,

WHEREAS, the following Pittsburgh area schools and organizations participated in the Mural Bridge Project:

Homewood-Brushton Support Center

Morningside Church of God in Christ and Quaker Youth Group
Oakland Catholic High School
Peabody High School
St. Sebastian School
Winchester-Thurston

WHEREAS, the Mural Bridge Project brings together racially and ethnically diverse groups of youth to work on projects, and by creating public art works that convey messages of unity, respect and understanding.

Finally, that any Ordinance or Resolution or part thereof conflicting with the provisions of this Proclamation, is hereby repealed so far as the same affects this Proclamation.

Effective Date: _____

Passed in Council: 03/21/2000

Approved: 03/21/2000

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in City Clerk's Office.



City of Pittsburgh

Text File

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| Introduced: 05/10/2005 | Bill No: 2005-1370 |
| Committee: City Council | Status: Adopted |

SPONSORED BY: TWANDA CARLISLE AND ALL MEMBERS

Presented by Ms. Carlisle

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh, recognizes and commend "Lucinda Todd for her commitment to build a civil rights bridge from Topeka, KS to the whole world through her commitment to testify and organize on the road to education justice. It's a bridge we must continue to build and cross many more times.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh, declares Monday, May 16, 2005 "Lucinda Todd Day" in the City of Pittsburgh and extend our greetings to those gathered at the Lucinda Todd Memorial Bridge in Topeka, KS.

Whereas, the Pittsburgh Anti-Sweatshop Community Alliance and Allegheny County ACORN are leading the second Pittsburgh delegation to Topeka, Kansas to commemorate the 51st Anniversary of Brown v Board of Education and the dedication of the Lucinda Todd Memorial Bridge. The dedication will take place on May 16; and

Whereas, the following Pittsburghers traveled to Topeka in 2004 and participated in the march from Sumner School to attend the official opening of the Brown vs. Board Historic Site were, Celeste Taylor, Kenneth Miller, Casey Capitolo, Rene Wilson, Shayla Wilson, Roxanne Banks-Williams, Hunter McCurdy, Forrest McCurdy, Robin Capitolo-Zuidema, Cannel Hammond and Jerry Johnson. The march from Sumner School to the grand opening of the Monroe School was organized by Sonny Scroggins and the delegation for 2005 will be Celeste Taylor, Kenneth Miller, Gail Williams and Channel Hammond; and

Whereas, the people of Topeka, KS have a special obligation and opportunity to speak for those denied educational opportunities. We fought for equal education in Kansas through demanding legal rights, and we understand that the law alone was insufficient to create; and

Whereas, Celeste Taylor of Pittsburgh will give the keynote address at the Topeka Brown Anniversary Ceremony; and

Whereas, the people of Pittsburgh received the testimony from the Bangladesh Center for Workers Solidarity on October 16th, 2004 at Freedom Corner. October 16th, 2004 was the 7th Anniversary of the 1997 Pittsburgh Anti Sweatshop Ordinance, a piece of legislation intended to protect the rights of



City of Pittsburgh Text File

Introduced: 01/29/2008
Committee: City Council

Bill No: 2008-0084
Status: Adopted

**SPONSORED BY: RICKY BURGESS; DAN DEASY; PATRICK DOWD; DARLENE HARRIS
AND BRUCE A. KRAUS**

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby commend the Black and White Reunion for their efforts to promote racial harmony amongst the people of Pittsburgh and acknowledges the Summit on Racism that allows people to educate themselves to the issues presented by racism, to explore creative and effective ways to affirm the message of racial tolerance and to celebrate the memory and message of Dr. Martin Luther King.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh, in recognition of this important event, does hereby declare January 26, 2008 to be "BLACK AND WHITE REUNION DAY" in the City of Pittsburgh.

Finally, that any Ordinance or Resolution or part thereof conflicting with the provisions of this Proclamation, is hereby repealed so far as the same affects this Proclamation.

Effective Date: _____

Passed in Council: _____

Approved: _____

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City of Pittsburgh

Text File

Introduced: 06/23/2009
Committee: City Council

Bill No: 2009-1577
Status: Adopted

SPONSORED BY: DARLENE HARRIS AND ALL MEMBERS

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the **Council of the City of Pittsburgh** does hereby support U.S. Representative Rush Holt's bill, H.R. 2894; and

RESOLVED FURTHER that the **Council of the City of Pittsburgh** conveys this Sense of Council Resolution to the members of the United States Congress to encourage their positive and immediate action in helping to pass this bill.

WHEREAS, in 2005 and 2007, this Council passed resolutions supporting the highest standards in voting machine technology; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, under a federal mandate, states and counties across the country purchased new voting machines; and

WHEREAS, many of the machines purchased do not live up to the original rules of the federal mandate, nor to the subsequent standards set forth in those regulations, nor even to the rules of common sense in terms of voter-verifiability, accessibility, security, transparency, and recountability; and

WHEREAS, many of the machines purchased by states and counties are opaque in software and hardware design, provide only unrecountable voting, and many are produced in sweatshops in third-world countries; and

WHEREAS, here in Allegheny County, as in most of the counties in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, we vote on systems which do not provide voter-verified recountable paper records nor a high level of accessibility nor any sort of transparency such that we may trust that our votes will be counted as they were meant to be cast; and

WHEREAS, a majority of Pennsylvania counties use touchscreen or push-button voting systems (DREs) such as the ES&S iVotronic used in Allegheny County, which systems provide no voter-verified paper ballot or other independent record that allows the voter to verify a correctly cast vote and provides for audits or recounts to take place; and

WHEREAS, studies conducted by the University of Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania State University demonstrated that these systems suffer from a number of security problems including a susceptibility

to viruses and deliberately inserted backdoors; and

WHEREAS, these systems also lack adequate accessibility features for individuals with motor disabilities, which is particularly problematic for Pennsylvania's aging population; and

WHEREAS, voter-verified paper ballots are more cost-effective - according to a study conducted in Miami-Dade County, Florida, they could provide an estimated savings of \$13 million over five years, in addition to the potential for using union labor to produce the paper ballots; and

WHEREAS, Representative Rush Holt of New Jersey has introduced H.B. 2894, the Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2009, which would effectively address all those issues and more, and would also provide states and counties with funding to rectify the most egregious violations of the original intent of the legislation; and

WHEREAS, once passed, this act would provide funding for Pennsylvania counties to replace our existing unauditible and inaccessible systems with models that citizens can trust, models that are more secure, more accessible, and more cost-effective;

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