***WHEREAS,*** the vast majority of households have both parents working and thereby rely on child care in order to maintain employment and contribute to the tax base, and

***WHEREAS,*** access to high quality pre-K gives children the opportunity to develop some of the most critical, fundamental cognitive and social skills needed to achieve their full potential in school, and

***WHEREAS,*** pre-k strengthens our schools by ensuring all children arrive at kindergarten ready to learn, thereby reducing grade repetition and special needs costs for the district; and

***WHEREAS,*** children with access to high-quality pre-k are less likely to commit a crime later in life, thereby defraying law enforcement costs; and

***WHEREAS,*** these savings in academic remediation and special education costs, law enforcement costs, and public welfare costs all help to keep the local tax burden low, and

***WHEREAS,*** every dollar invested in early education generates over $2 in immediate local economic impact and up to $17 in long-term public savings and benefit; and

***WHEREAS,*** children who have experienced high-quality pre-k are more likely to graduate from high school, enjoy increased lifetime earnings and contribute to the tax base, and

***WHEREAS,*** the Council of the City of Pittsburgh recognizes that currently too few of Pittsburgh’s three and four year olds are able to access high-quality pre-k, and

***WHEREAS,*** high quality pre-school and excellent K-12 schools are needed to attract young families and Pittsburgh wishes to strengthen its schools, communities, and economy.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*** that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh supports efforts to expand access to high-quality pre-k for all three and four year old children in Pennsylvania.

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*** that a copy of this Will of Council shall be circulated to the Governor and our respective county and state legislators.

**SPONSORED BY COUNCILWOMAN NATALIA RUDIAK**

**CO-SPONSORED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT BRUCE KRAUS AND COUNCILMEMBERS REV. RICKY BURGESS, DANIEL GILMAN, DEBORAH GROSS, DARLENE HARRIS, THERESA KAIL-SMITH,**

**R. DANIEL LAVELLE AND COREY O’CONNOR**