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**Title:** WHEREAS, The Congress of Neighboring of Communities (CONNECT) brings together the City of Pittsburgh and surrounding municipalities to identify common public policy challenges and advocate for collective change on behalf of Allegheny County’s urban core; and,

**Sponsors:** Deborah L. Gross, All Members

**Indexes:** PROCLAMATION - MS. GROSS

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**WHEREAS**, The Congress of Neighboring of Communities (**CONNECT**) brings together the City of Pittsburgh and surrounding municipalities to identify common public policy challenges and advocate for collective change on behalf of Allegheny County’s urban core; and,

**WHEREAS**, established in 2009, **CONNECT** convenes the leaders of 30+ local governments to identify common issues and work collaboratively to determine solutions. Issues depend on the political climate, current events, desires and interests of our membership and capacity. Current policy issues include infrastructure and utilities management and regionalization, economic and environmental development, and public safety, health, and human resources; and,

**WHEREAS**, in 2019 and 2020, **CONNECT** has continued to make great strides towards regional policy change on a variety of common issues for the benefit of our region’s urban core; and,

**WHEREAS**, the organization will host is eleventh annual **CONNECT Legislative Session and Reception** on September 17<sup>th</sup> where they will share updates of **CONNECT**’s policy work related to coordination between municipalities, partners, and other governmental organizations, and identify priorities for the coming year.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby recognize and commend the **Congress of Neighboring Communities** for its commitment to promoting inter-municipal cooperation; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby declare Thursday, September 17, 2020, to be **“CONNECT DAY”** in the City of Pittsburgh.