



Legislation Details (With Text)

File #: 2012-0540 **Version:** 1

Type: Proclamation **Status:** Adopted

File created: 6/26/2012 **In control:** City Council

On agenda: **Final action:** 6/26/2012

Enactment date: 6/26/2012 **Enactment #:** 382

Effective date:

Title: THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh commends Phil Solomon for his tireless work as the Steelpan Ambassador to the World; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby declare Tuesday, June 26, 2012 to be Phil Solomon Day in the City of Pittsburgh.

Sponsors: Natalia Rudiak, All Members

Indexes: PROCLAMATION - MS. RUDIAK

Code sections:

Attachments: 1. 2012-0540.doc.doc

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
6/26/2012	1	City Council	Adopted	Pass

WHEREAS, The steelpan is a modern instrument, tracing its history back to the youth of Trinidad and Guyana in the early 20th Century as a way to hone their musical skills; and

WHEREAS, The first steelpans were made from discarded barrels by native children too poor to purchase orchestral instruments imported from England; and

WHEREAS, as a young man growing up in Guyana, **Phil Solomon** taught himself to play the steelpan on his own handmade pan; and

WHEREAS, at age 23, **Phil Solomon** led an orchestra of steelpan players to win a prestigious music festival in Trinidad with his arrangement of Brahm's famous piece, *Hungarian Dance #5*; and

WHEREAS, **Phil Solomon** emigrated to the United States in 1984, and because of the availability of steel barrels, settled in the Pittsburgh area; and

WHEREAS, **Phil Solomon** rooted himself in the Beechview neighborhood, hammering out steelpans in his basement just steps from the T, and raised four talented daughters; and

WHEREAS, **Phil Solomon** worked with the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association to develop a program to introduce steelpans into schools, and helped found steelpan bands at Keystone Oaks, Ambridge, Chartiers Valley, and Carrick High Schools; and

WHEREAS, **Phil Solomon** formed a band, Steel Impressions, to help spread the gospel of steelpan far and wide; and

WHEREAS, He is internationally recognized as the world's best steel pan maker, having established the standard chemical composition of steel pans used worldwide; and

WHEREAS, **Phil Solomon** remains dedicated to the expansion of steelpan in the Pittsburgh region, through educating a new generation of steelpan enthusiasts and the promotion of Pittsburgh as the Steelpan capital of the world; and

WHEREAS, The smile on **Phil Solomon's** face while playing his instrument is only eclipsed by the smile he has when teaching his craft; and

WHEREAS, **Phil Solomon** finds true joy in the versatility of his steel pans, and the ability to make everything from classical music to top 40 hits sound spectacular on his instruments.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh commends **Phil Solomon** for his tireless work as the Steelpan Ambassador to the World; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby declare Tuesday, June 26, 2012 to be **Phil Solomon Day** in the City of Pittsburgh.