



City of Pittsburgh

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Text File

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Committee: City Council

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WHEREAS, in 2008, when 120 homicides occurred in Allegheny County, community leader and former Allegheny County Police Detective **Jimmy Cevetic** answered the call of the community angry, afraid and in turmoil over the tragic loss of life turmoil and started **The Three Rivers Peace Project** with the goal of bringing hope through restoring the value of human life; and,

WHEREAS, **The Three Rivers Peace Project** is a multi-faceted initiative designed to help break the cycle of violence in Allegheny County through violence awareness and youth development; and,

WHEREAS, **The Three Rivers Peace Project** focuses on building self esteem and the value of others through teaching young people how the creative arts can be a powerful form of self-expression by involving them in music, theatre, photography and poetry and educating students about the criminal justice process and the life-changing consequences of breaking the law; and,

WHEREAS, to continue the goals of the Three Rivers Peace Project, the **Pittsburgh Bureau of Police, the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP), the Allegheny County Sheriff's Office, Parents of Murdered Children, the Western Pennsylvania Police Athletic League** and others have joined together in taking a stand against violence by hosting an interfaith **Gathering of Peace** rally bringing together people from all over Allegheny County under a unified theme of non-violence and fellowship; and,

WHEREAS, **The Gathering of Peace** will be focused on Pittsburgh youth and paying homage to those who have passed with the Heinz Field Jumbotron scrolling the names of the more than 1,500 homicide victims in Allegheny County over the past 15 years, helping our community gain a greater appreciation of the consequences of gun violence and celebrating a better life through a foundation of peace; and,

WHEREAS, **The Gathering of Peace** will be open to all and held at Heinz Field on April 4th, 2009, at 2 pm and will include a Blessing of the Loaves and Fishes by the **Most Reverend Bishop of the City of Pittsburgh David A. Zubik**, performances by the **North Star Kids** and remarks by some of Pittsburgh's most prestigious civic leaders including Youth Advocate **Amonte Eberhart**; **Chief Nathan E. Harper**, Pittsburgh Bureau of Police; **Honorable John T. McVay, Jr.**, Common Pleas Judge; **Honorable Chelsa Wagner**, Pennsylvania Representative for the 22nd District; **Stephanie Walsh**, Executive Director, Center for Victims of Violence and Crime; **Gloria Sztukowski**, Western Pennsylvania Police Athletic League; and **Gathering of Peace Rally** organizer, **Jimmy Cevetic**;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the **Council of the City of Pittsburgh** does hereby commend **The Three Rivers Peace Project** for being a beacon of hope to our communities and youth; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby recognize the importance of the inaugural **Gathering of Peace** by **declaring April 4th, 2009, to be "GATHERING OF PEACE DAY"** in the City of Pittsburgh.