



City of Pittsburgh

510 City-County Building
414 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Text File

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Committee: City Council

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WHEREAS, in 1990's, two local organizations, **The Hazelwood Neighborhood Maintenance Task Force**, which addressed ongoing quality of life issues such as abandoned housing, maintenance of public infrastructure, and crime, and **The Economic Leveraging Partnership**, which garnered financial resources for community development, began working in coalition for a new community vision for redevelopment of Hazelwood; and,

WHEREAS

, their successful work lead to vast cross membership in both organizations and the formation of the **Hazelwood Initiative** in 1999; and,

WHEREAS, broadening its strategic role, the **Hazelwood Initiative** has facilitated and implemented a community-focused vision planning process for Hazelwood that has led to the organization becoming one of the **most lauded and effective community based organizations** in the City of Pittsburgh; and,

WHEREAS, the **Hazelwood Initiative** has facilitated important programs to improve Hazelwood including the organization of **six block clubs**; working with PA Cleanways to **cleanup three illegal dumpsites**- Chatsworth Street, Paw Paw Way, and the Greenway; installed **three public art pieces** and facilitated placement of **two Sprout Fund Murals** in strategic locations along Second Avenue beautifying the area; and helping **HI HOPE** (Health Outreach Promoting Empowerment) achieve success that resulted in being **awarded State Health Improvement Partner status (SHIP)**; and,

WHEREAS, the **Hazelwood Initiative** has made a tremendous impact for community members in quality of life while inviting people from throughout the city to get to know this wonderful community through conducting **seven Oktoberfest 5K runs** that introduced 100s of new folks to Hazelwood; **23 summer concerts**, first at the Hazelwood Carnegie Library and currently at the Sitting Garden, attended by well **over 1,000 people** ; providing a **Safe Halloween** event for the past nine years for the children of Greater Hazelwood, giving out an average of **400 bags of safe treats to children under 10 years old**; and producing **75 issues of a monthly newspaper** that is delivered free of charge to over **3,300 households in Greater Hazelwood and Hays**; and,

WHEREAS, under the leadership of long-time **Executive Director Jim Ricther**, the **Hazelwood Initiative** continues to create a community driven future for Hazelwood and form new partnerships including working with **Pittsburgh Housing Development Corporation** on six new houses; restoration of the **historic 18th Century Woods House** with **Pittsburgh History and Landmarks** and the **Urban Redevelopment Authority**; identifying a new use and tenant for the abandoned historic **Carnegie Library** building; and helping to foster continued **Keystone Opportunity Zone** development;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the **Council of the City of Pittsburgh** does hereby lauds the **Hazelwood Initiative** on its **10th Anniversary** and does hereby declare Saturday, October 10, 2009, to be "**HAZELWOOD INITIATIVE DAY**" in the City of Pittsburgh.