



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, **Jewish Residential Services** provides residential and rehabilitative services to people who need support in their everyday lives because of psychiatric or developmental disabilities, helping them to establish dignified, stable, productive and satisfying lives for themselves as members of the JRS community, their families and the greater community; and,

WHEREAS, since it was created in 1991 as the first licensed community residential rehabilitation facility for individuals with psychiatric disabilities, JRS has grown to include the **Leonard Staisey House**, a site based living program, the **JRS Supported Living Program**, which provides direct support and services to adults with psychiatric and cognitive disabilities, **Charles Morris Hall**, a HUD-subsidized apartment building which provides affordable independent housing and the **Howard Levin Clubhouse**, a non residential, recovery oriented psychiatric rehabilitation program; and,

WHEREAS, **Debbie Friedman** has been the JRS's first and only Executive Director since its inception and has overseen remarkable growth of this ground breaking community based program; and,

WHEREAS, **Debbie Friedman**, a native of Pittsburgh and married with three children, began her career in human services in North Carolina in a medical ethics program and at community based group home facilities supporting children and youth with disabilities and adults with drug and alcohol dependency, beginning her life long dedication to the mission of social service; and,

WHEREAS, acknowledging that the community has become more willing to acknowledge disabilities, **Debbie Friedman** has, through her thirty years of experience, brought her skills, passion and devotion to Jewish Residential Services, culminating most recently with the opening of the **Jason Kramer Hall**, a second residential program for persons with cognitive disabilities.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby commend **Deborah Friedman** for her twenty years of service to Jewish Residential Services, growing it from a dream by a few to a comprehensive, viable part of the community serving people with psychiatric and cognitive disabilities; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby declare Thursday, September 15, 2011, to be "**DEBBIE FRIEDMAN DAY**" in the City of Pittsburgh.