



Text File

Introduced: 6/26/2012

Bill No: 2012-0540, Version: 1

Committee: City Council

Status: Adopted

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 steelpans 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 steelpans, and the ability to make everything from classical music to top 40 hits sound spectacular on his instruments.

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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.