



City of Pittsburgh

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

Text File

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Committee: City Council

Status: Adopted

WHEREAS, Bev Smith began her television and radio career in 1971 in Pittsburgh, when she was named Pittsburgh's first African American Consumer Affairs Investigative Reporter for WPXI Television. In 1975 she became the News and Public Affairs Director for Sheridan Broadcasting where she hosted a talk show on WAMO. Since her time at WAMO she has also had talk shows on KDKA and WTAE in Pittsburgh, WNWS in Miami, WKIS in Orlando, and WRC in Washington DC. For over 13 years she also hosted a popular national television talk show "Our Voice" on the Black Entertainment Television Network; and,

WHEREAS, Bev Smith has talked and interviewed people from all walks of life, including presidents, royalty, entertainers, and death row inmates. The result of her work has been more than 300 awards and she is listed as one of the 50 "top talkers" in the country; and,

WHEREAS, Bev Smith has blazed a trail in the broadcasting industry that future generations will try to emulate. She has used her voice to advocate on behalf of African American citizens and people of color globally. Getting straight to the point, being both direct and passionate while tackling controversial issues has become her trademark style. This style led to her mantra to her fans "Stand Up, Be Counted and Get Involved; and,

WHEREAS, starting Aug. 28, 2013 women from across the country will gather at the Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown to discuss matters of health, education, employment and spirituality in the African-American community. The goal is to create a working community plan to present at the Congressional Black Caucus Legislative Conference in September. Bev Smith has organized a four-day event to challenge African American women to take up the fight against racism, sexism and homophobia; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby commend Bev Smith for her contribution and commitment to the community; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby declare August 28-August 31, 2013, to be "**Bev Smith Week**" in the City of Pittsburgh.