



Text File

Introduced: 10/23/2018

Bill No: 2018-1012, Version: 1

Committee: City Council

Status: Adopted

WHEREAS, the foundation of **Manchester Academic Charter School (MACS)** began in Manchester 50 years ago under the establishment of **Manchester Youth Development Center (MYDC)** by **Reverend James Robinson** in 1968 in an atmosphere of social and racial tension to be a safe recreational facility for local youth in the aftermath of Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination.

WHEREAS, the parents of MYDC and residents the Manchester community desiring their children to read better than themselves, Rev. James Robinson's wife, **Dr. Betty Robinson** resigned from her full-time position as a school administrator to dedicate her expertise to develop an afterschool program to assist students with their homework and academic needs which then lead to the beginning of a small private school of Manchester Academic in 1994.

WHEREAS, with the passage of the Pennsylvania charter school law 1998, Manchester Academic Charter School was established by Dr. Betty Robinson, parents and community members to provide children a safe, nurturing learning environment with high academic rigor; and

WHEREAS, has in 2008, under the leadership of **Vasilios Scoumis**, MACS was honored with one of the country's coveted **Blue Ribbon** awards for school excellence by the U.S. Department of Education, the first charter school in the region to be so recognized. The **National Blue Ribbon Schools Program** is part of a larger U. S. Department of Education effort to identify and spread knowledge about best school leadership and teaching practices. MACS was one of 13 schools in Pennsylvania to be honored that year; and,

WHEREAS, in response to a growing waiting list, MACS began an expansion process, adding a second kindergarten class in 2009, introducing a second class at every grade level each subsequent year; and,

WHEREAS, MACS has been fortunate to have sustained strong community support from a variety of tremendous individuals, organizations, businesses, foundations and government officials throughout the region who support their mission and vision of empowering youth and strengthening communities through innovative education; and,

WHEREAS, On October 13th, 2018 MACS hosted a wonderful 20th Anniversary Celebration at Heinz Field themed "**A History of Pride, the Future of Learning**" recognizing their staff, students, families, alumni and community supporters for their continued work and support over the past 20 years; and

WHEREAS, MACS unveiled their latest endeavor with the **Children's Museum of Pittsburgh** to establish the largest cultural campus for youth in the nation and the future home of MACS middle school in 2019 to be known as the **museumlab of Pittsburgh**; and,

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby **declare Tuesday, October 23rd, 2018** to be **Manchester Academic Charter School Day** to celebrate the **20th Anniversary of Manchester Academic Charter School** in the City of Pittsburgh.