



## Legislation Details (With Text)

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<b>File created:</b>	1/3/2023	<b>In control:</b>	City Council
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<b>Enactment date:</b>	1/4/2023	<b>Enactment #:</b>	2
<b>Effective date:</b>	1/4/2023		
<b>Title:</b>	WHEREAS, Mr. Gabriel Fontana grew up in the southern Italian province of Calabria in the aftermath of the Second World War; and,		
<b>Sponsors:</b>	Bobby Wilson, All Members		
<b>Indexes:</b>	PROCLAMATION - MR. WILSON		
<b>Code sections:</b>			
<b>Attachments:</b>			

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
1/4/2023	1	City Council	Adopted	Pass

**WHEREAS, Mr. Gabriel Fontana** grew up in the southern Italian province of Calabria in the aftermath of the Second World War; and,

**WHEREAS, Mr. Fontana** worked in a German shoe factory where he learned the art of cobbling before immigrating to the United States of America at age twenty-eight; and,

**WHEREAS, Mr. Fontana** joined his sister and brother-in-law just north of Pittsburgh in Gibsonia, Pennsylvania. His brother-in-law, who was also in the shoe trade, worked with **Mr. Fontana** before he would take over the family's **Forbes Avenue** shoe repair shop in Downtown Pittsburgh in 1974; and,

**WHEREAS,** for the next half-century, **Mr. Fontana's** quality work and dedication have made him, and his iconic Forbes Avenue store, a staple of the Downtown Pittsburgh community; and,

**WHEREAS,** thousands of Pittsburghers, Downtown workers, and many more have counted on his high-quality craftsmanship. **Mr. Fontana** has used old-work skill and 1940's-era machinery to keep generations of residents on their feet; and,

**WHEREAS,** after forty-eight years in business, countless shoes repaired, and countless tributes from his loyal patrons, **Mr. Fontana** has chosen to retire at the age of eighty-one as one of Pittsburgh's and the region's last cobblers and shoe repairmen.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does thank Mr. Gabriel Fontana for his half-century of service to the people and commuters of Downtown Pittsburgh.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Council does hereby wish him well in his richly-earned retirement and declares Wednesday, January 4, 2023 to be **Gabriel Fontana Day** here in our City of Pittsburgh.