



# City of Pittsburgh

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

## Text File

**Introduced:** 7/5/2011

**Bill No:** 2011-1880, **Version:** 1

**Committee:** City Council

**Status:** Adopted

**WHEREAS**, the Wesley & Emily Jackson Family and Friends Reunion began in 1975 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. For many years this affair has reunited descendants, in-laws and friends of Wesley and Emily Jackson from all across the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Wesley and Emily were born in Georgia in the late 1830's / early 1840's. Ben Atkinson, one of their grandchildren, born in Georgia in 1896 migrated with his wife and children to Pittsburgh in 1939, due to greater work opportunities. He was a heavy equipment operator, primarily working road construction and was one of the first black members of the Operating Engineers Union #66; and

**WHEREAS**, Ben worked many notable projects, including the Highland Park Bridge, portions of the PA and Ohio Turnpikes, as well as the roads surrounding the capitol buildings in Washington, DC. His direct descendants and in-laws have also been significant contributors to the Greater Pittsburgh Area, varying from educators, philanthropists, community organizers, trades people, government workers and corporate leaders; and

**WHEREAS**, Ben, his wife Vera and all of their children have passed away; however, they are survived by subsequent generations to carry on the legacy of this important family reunion.

**WHEREAS**, the Jackson Family and Friends Reunion has been held for more than 35 years, rotating between seven different states. This year will be the 22<sup>nd</sup> reunion and will be headquartered at the Pittsburgh Airport Marriott between July 8<sup>th</sup> and July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby recognize and commend the Wesley & Emily Jackson Family for their efforts to maintain the fabric of their family and community; and

**BE** **IT** **FURTHER** **RESOLVED**  
, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh, does hereby proclaim July 10, 2011, as “**Wesley & Emily Jackson Family and Friends Reunion**” in the City of Pittsburgh.