



City of Pittsburgh

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

Text File

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Committee: City Council

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WHEREAS, the Acculturation for Justice, Access and Peace Outreach (AJAPO) is a faith inspired mutual assistance non-profit established in 2002 as a component of the social service ministry of the historic St. Benedict the Moor Church in the Hill District of Pittsburgh; and,

WHEREAS, AJAPO serves upwards of 300 refugees/immigrants residing in the greater Pittsburgh area. Since AJAPO has been designated as a Federal Refugee Resettlement Agency, the organization is the first contact in the United States for those refugees arriving to Pittsburgh through their affiliate, the Ethiopian Community Development Corporation (ECDC); and,

WHEREAS, nations such as Cameroon, Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Trinidad and Tobago, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Haiti are just some of the places in which immigrants and refugees come from that AJAPO has catered their services to; and,

WHEREAS, it is AJAPO's mission to provide a continuum of care through wrap around services to empower refugees/immigrants new to the Greater Pittsburgh Region to become self-sufficient and integrated into our communities, with services such as life skills training and employment preparation proving vital in their assimilation to a new country; and,

WHEREAS, the organization has had a range of accomplishments from providing conflict resolution on behalf of refugees to developing educational and enterprising programs; and,

WHEREAS, through their partnerships with organizations such as UPMC, the Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council, the Jewish Family and Children Services, Community Empowerment Association, and the City of Pittsburgh Housing Authority, AJAPO has been able to better serve those that rely on their services;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby recognize the Acculturation for Justice, Access and Peace Outreach (AJAPO) for the extraordinary work in making the City of Pittsburgh a more welcoming and diverse American city.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby declare January 22, 2013 to be "AJAPO Day" in the City of Pittsburgh.