



## Text File

**Introduced:** 6/9/2015

**Bill No:** 2015-1722, **Version:** 1

**Committee:** City Council

**Status:** Adopted

**WHEREAS**, thirty years ago, in the face of wage cuts and benefit reductions, 1,000 janitors in Pittsburgh launched a nationwide movement for justice, and stood strong through an 18-month lockout by their employers; and

**WHEREAS**, In the spring of 1990 similarly underpaid janitors in Los Angeles were fighting for higher wages, a union, and a better future when on June 15, while peacefully marching in the wealthy Century City district, these men and women were suddenly and brutally beaten by police, launching what was to become known as the Justice for Janitors campaign; and

**WHEREAS**, Pittsburgh janitors have continually stood strong as the real estate industry has shifted to subcontracting janitorial work, which has splintered the workforce and chipped away at hours and pay; and

**WHEREAS**, Through sustained action and community support these courageous janitors have now won back decent wages and a strong contract and serve as an inspiration to janitors across the country with a long struggle ahead; and

**WHEREAS**, In Pittsburgh, Los Angeles and elsewhere, the leaders of the Justice for Janitors campaign have used nonviolent demonstration, community support, and a new understanding of the real estate industry to win not just hearts and minds but strong contracts; and

**WHEREAS**, Much like the Fight for 15 today, those leaders were the invisible ones - immigrants, women, people of color - who found a new level of dignity, respect and collective power through organizing and a union; and

**WHEREAS**, June 15 is now nationally celebrated as Justice for Janitors Day, as our struggles for workplace fairness, dignity and respect continue; and

**WHEREAS**, The janitors in Pittsburgh who fought so bravely 30 years ago for good jobs with family-sustaining wages are now the bedrock of a growing economy and stand shoulder to shoulder with fast food and other low-wage workers in their struggles today.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh declares the week of June 15, 2015 as Justice for Janitors week in Pittsburgh in honor of the brave women and men who risked it all for justice and dignity, prevailed in their righteous struggle and serve as an inspiration for workers today.