



City of Pittsburgh

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

Text File

Introduced: 6/27/2017

Bill No: 2017-1682, **Version:** 1

Committee: City Council

Status: Adopted

WHEREAS, Three Rivers Hospice and Family Home Health Services is a locally owned and operated company with over 40 years of combined experience helping people recover from acute illnesses, injuries, and surgeries; and,

WHEREAS, in 2001, Norm Rish, President of **Three Rivers Hospice and Family Home Health Services** launched the first pet therapy program in the Pittsburgh area under the direction of then-volunteer Laura Sokolovic and her Rottweiler, **Athena**; and,

WHEREAS, in 2006, **Athena** passed away, leaving **Anastasia** as her replacement. Laura Sokolovic became Director of both Public Relations and the Pet Therapy Program, where she focused all of her energy on fine-tuning the Pet Therapy Program for **Three Rivers Hospice and Family Home Health Services**; and,

WHEREAS, Laura's pet therapy program is a way for **Three Rivers Hospice and Family Home Health Services** to give back to the communities they serve throughout Western PA. There is never a fee for visits, and Laura's pets visit patients in hospice throughout Allegheny County; and,

WHEREAS, the pet-therapy program provides therapy to nursing facilities, hospitals, doctors' offices, and schools. The program acts as a fundraiser for numerous causes, including the American Cancer Society, Alzheimer's research, family shelters, and animal shelters; and,

WHEREAS, the pet therapy program continues today through the loss of Athena and Anastasia with **Arianna** and **Sebastian**. **Arianna** and **Sebastian** "bring smiles to everyone they meet" as pet therapy dogs. **Arianna, Sebastian and Friends** continue to grow the pet therapy program with help from Laura and support from **Three Rivers Hospice and Family Home Health Services**. The pet therapy program truly is "The Home That Anastasia Built;" and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby declare **Tuesday, June 27, 2017** to be "**Three Rivers Hospice and Family Home Health Services Day**" in the City of Pittsburgh.