



Text File

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Bill No: 2019-1522, **Version:** 1

Committee: City Council

Status: Adopted

WHEREAS, five African teens from cultural groups such as Somali Bantu, Burundian, Congolese, and Tanzanian and five African American teens from Pittsburgh formed a collaborative project called **Building Bridges: Welcome the Stranger**. The name of the teens are **Hamadi Mahina, Hassan Abdi, Afisa Uwimana, Charlotte Nisubire, Ali Abdula, Janiyah Pendelton, Takeyah Ghafoor, Kareem Adams, Asti Goodwine, and Tayshawn Herring**; and,

WHEREAS, this group of teens, whom live in Northview Heights, have come together to share personal stories of African and African American teens and adults. They are sharing these stories through digital storytelling in collaboration with Share Our Story, Center of Life and Pittsburgh Playback Theater. Digital storytelling is a way for people to tell individual stories through visuals, which allows for discussion of complex topics; and,

WHEREAS, the mission of this program is to share their cultural stories in order to reduce barriers, build mutual understanding, and develop empathy. These ten teens met every Saturday in February to discuss which lessons they wanted to share with the community. With some assistance from volunteers, each teen compiled and edited material to create a three minute documentary. These documentaries included significant events that occurred in their lives; and,

WHEREAS, with a changing generation comes changing culture and how it is expressed and received. The digital storytelling project helps to share stories while bringing communities of different cultures and creating a welcoming environment for immigrants and refugees; and,

WHEREAS, there will be five dates where the teens' stories are shared at the **Building Bridges: Welcome the Stranger** event. They engage all audiences through digital storytelling, musical performances, and improv theatre; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby declare Saturday, March 23rd, 2019, Sunday, March 31st, 2019, Thursday, April 4th, 2019, Sunday, June 9th, 2019, and Thursday, June 20th, 2019 to be **"Building Bridges: Welcome the Stranger Days"** in the City of Pittsburgh.