



Text File

Introduced: 4/30/2019

Bill No: 2019-1628, **Version:** 1

Committee: City Council

Status: Adopted

WHEREAS, in 1963, two women named Marion Jordan and Florence Reizenstein called of meeting of their friends and peers in the wake of civil rights leader Medgar Evars' death, to see how they could help a group of African Americans who were accepted into college but could not afford to go; and

WHEREAS, from that meeting grew an organization called **NEED**, which has provided grants, scholarships, mentoring, internships, and more to the region's youth minority groups; and

WHEREAS, for the past 13 years, **NEED** has taken 100 aspiring students to Historical Black Colleges. They have exposed over 1500 students to HBCU's through transformational tours. These tours have resulted in over 600 students attending and graduating from HBCU's, where they lead the nation in numerous professions; and

WHEREAS, **NEED** provides many programs to assist students and families in the college process; and

WHEREAS, they hold a STEM program that strives to increase the number of African American females in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics fields; and,

WHEREAS, they provide the ACE program, which helps students learn about career options and helps them explore and apply to secondary education. Additionally, **NEED** helps parents navigate the complexities of financial aid applications, such as FAFSA; and,

WHEREAS, AAMMI is a program that is held to mentor young males in both a one-on-one and group setting. This program helps these males to make positive life choices, resulting in hundreds of African American men going to college; and,

WHEREAS, Calculating Kids is a program that is designed to improve academic excellence and achievements in mathematics among children residing in Braddock, PA; and,

WHEREAS, **NEED** also supports a program in which they fill a room that supplies dormitory needs for freshmen students so that they can enter college ready to tackle and enjoy their new academic experience; and

WHEREAS, these scholarships and programs help empower Pittsburgh's next generation of leaders to overcome financial, class, cultural, and social barriers. In recent years, **NEED** has focused on helping talented students in need of financial assistance that would otherwise not receive aid from college programs with increasing tuitions; and,

WHEREAS, resources play an important role in encouraging access through financial and counseling assistance to those students in the most need. The average **NEED** recipient has an unmet need of \$6,777.95.

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Yearly, **NEED** awards 1,000 scholarships and grants to students; and,

WHEREAS, NEED is celebrating their 56th year and their annual **NEED** dinner. In addition to the \$36 million given in scholarships over the 56 years, **NEED** has positioned African American Pittsburghers to realize the dream of a college experience to over 34,000 students. This unparalleled contribution has changed the profile of the region and ultimately the nation; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby declare Thursday, May 2nd, 2019, to be “**NEED Day**” in the City of Pittsburgh.