



Text File

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Committee: City Council

Status: Adopted

WHEREAS, In 1972, Dr. Richard W. Moriarty, a Lawrenceville native and a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, began the revision of the Pittsburgh Poison Center at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh; and,

WHEREAS, the majority of potential toxic exposures occurred in children and sometimes resulted in needless trips to an Emergency Room, Moriarty felt the need to develop a public poison prevention educational program; and,

WHEREAS, the previous poison warning symbol, a red skull and crossbones could be viewed as attractive to children; and,

WHEREAS, Studies with groups of children resulted in a sick-face symbol coupled with a fluorescent green background color were seen as a turn-off or "yukky". A new poison warning symbol had been christened; and,

WHEREAS, a public poison prevention educational program was developed around the Mr. Yuk symbol where sheets of Mr. Yuk stickers listed potentially dangerous household products and parents were to place a sticker on these items and to store them safely. Parents were urged to teach their children not to touch any item bearing a Mr. Yuk sticker; and,

WHEREAS, in order to prevent needless trips to the Emergency Room, all Mr. Yuk stickers carried a poison center's telephone number, which parents were to call first, when suspecting a potentially toxic exposure; and,

WHEREAS, due to the success of the poison prevention educational program and the national attention it received, other Poison Centers emulated the practices developed by the Pittsburgh Poison Center; and,

WHEREAS, More than 50 major Poison Centers across the United States have adopted the Pittsburgh Poison Center treatment practice standards and the Mr. Yuk poison prevention educational program; and,

WHEREAS, As a result of Dr. Moriarty's hard work Mr. Yuk continues to help protect today's children;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby declare the day of October 1st, 2019 to be "Mr. Yuk Day" in the City of Pittsburgh, and recognizes Dr. Moriarty for his extraordinary efforts to promote the safety of children in our region.