



Text File

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Committee: City Council

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WHEREAS on February 25, 2006, seven recent, college graduates opened Beleza Community Coffeehouse, located in the Northside's Mexican War Streets neighborhood, for the purpose of creating a welcoming community gathering place; and

WHEREAS the Community Coffeehouse's name "Beleza," is a commonly used, friendly salutation in Portuguese meaning, "beautiful"; and

WHEREAS while working for "The Pittsburgh Project", a Northside, non-profit organization that is dedicated to socially conscious, urban redevelopment, three of the co-owners of what would eventually become the Beleza Community Coffeehouse enjoyed the opportunity to visit Pittsburgh during their high-school and college years; and

WHEREAS while attending Hope College located in Holland, Michigan, Gavin Deming, Joanna Deming, Emily Frey-Wagg, Steve Frey-Wagg, Ashley North, Philip Johnson, and Kimberly Walkenhorst decided to return to Pittsburgh and dedicate their efforts to increasing social justice and local community-building, allowing their faith to lead them in this process; and

WHEREAS once relocated in Pittsburgh, this group of individuals uncovered a need on the part of the Central North Side neighborhood to have a community gathering place, which in turn led them to create the Beleza Community Coffeehouse concept as a means of promoting social justice and peace through cooperative efforts and community revitalization; and

WHEREAS in fulfillment of this idea, the seven co-owners, acting with generous financial assistance from the Northside Community Development Fund, decided to locate their Coffeehouse in what was once a vacant, corner storefront at 1501 Buena Vista Street; and

WHEREAS the Beleza Community Coffeehouse's commitment to social improvement extends to its products as well, with the Coffeehouse selling and promoting only fairly traded, socially conscious coffee and locally baked pastries; and

WHEREAS Beleza opens its doors to not only its customers but also to local artists who demonstrate their talents through free, public exhibitions.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby commend the community-building efforts of the owners of the Beleza Community Coffeehouse, not only for their quality service and excellent fare but also, and most importantly, for their willingness to sow the seeds of friendship, social justice, and peace within the City of Pittsburgh.