

As I recently passed the half way mark of my first year as your City Councilman, I thought it would be a good time to share with you some of the things we have accomplished.

In my campaign I always said that the most important part of the job is to meet the needs of district residents. I thought the best way to do this was to hear directly from you, your family and friends. That's why my office organized meetings in each and every neighborhood in our district. I learned a great deal from listening and have worked hard to address the needs and problems that were brought to my attention. For example, we were successful in getting City Council to pass unanimously my **Resolution asking the State Assembly to provide urgent funding** to meet the immediate needs of the public and to establish a **permanent funding stream** for the delivery of responsible transportation.

When I was in office less than a month, property owners received their reassessment notices. As you are aware, many had grave concerns. Although assessments are purely a County function, I felt strongly that we needed to help. Working collaboratively with the Administration, City Controller Michael Lamb, and Councilman Bill Peduto, we were instrumental in developing the **Assessment Appeal Assistance Program**. Residents were able to meet with trained staff to provide assistance with the appeal process. We received a lot of positive feedback and hope to be able to provide this help when the 2012 figures are scheduled to go into effect next year.

I am also proud of legislation I sponsored that established an **HIV/AIDS Commission** which grew out of a meeting with stakeholders in the community who expressed the need for a program to increase awareness and encourage collaboration between disparate groups in an effort to reduce gaps in treatment. This Commission is currently in formation and is expected to be up and running this fall.

As **Chair of Council's Committee on Urban Recreation**, I have visited dozens of Recreation and Senior Centers and toured almost every park in the City of Pittsburgh. Citiparks Director Mike Radley and Mike Gable, Deputy Director of the Department of Public Works, briefed me at each stop and we are in the process of prioritizing needs. I was privileged to host a post-agenda session that gave the seven non-profit member

organizations of the **Pittsburgh Greenspace Alliance** a televised opportunity to inform Council members and viewers about the economic and health benefits of preserving city Greenways.

From the Minadeo Playground in Squirrel Hill to the Lewis Playground in Hazelwood, from the Gateway Portal at Forward and Shady to the Welcome to Greenfield signage, and from McBride Park in Lincoln Place to the Four Mile Run Stormwater Mitigation Demonstration Project, we have been working with individuals and community groups on implementing improvements throughout the district. I'm happy also happy to report that we were able to pave many more streets than in past years.

One project that has been particularly important to me is that we were able to launch "**Corey's Crew**," made up largely of volunteers from my election campaign last year. These dedicated people are available to troubleshoot, clean lots, and help senior citizens in a variety of ways. For example, we responded to a call from a District Magistrate to help a woman who had appeared in his courtroom in response to a citation. She was unable to handle what needed to be remedied and Crew members responded. If you would like to volunteer, please call my office.

I have been honored by the number and variety of groups that have **invited me to speak**. Just to cite a few...I participated in a Naturalization Ceremony at Allderdice High School, addressed students from Colfax and Minadeo Schools when they toured Council Chambers, gave a speech at the Clean Rivers Campaign Kick-off, and emceed the dedication of the Bob Vavro Sr. Garden in Hazelwood.

We have recognized through **Proclamations** many individuals, organizations and accomplishments, including: the Manor Theater's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; former High School Baseball Star Dennis Bair's BringHome100; the Center of Life Jazz Band; Allderdice National Merit Scholars; the late Ellen Kander Founder of Steeltown Entertainment; Urban Mommies; and Child Abuse Prevention Month.

It's been a busy and productive time, and I thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve. I am enjoying each and every day and I am excited about the many projects we have in the works. Stay tuned!

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