



2012 YEAR END NEWSLETTER

January 2013



OFFICE OF COUNCILMAN  
R. DANIEL LAVELLE

Proudly Serving:

- California-Kirkbride
- Central Northside
- Downtown
- Fineview
- Hill District
- Manchester
- Parts of Oakland
- Perry Hilltop
- Uptown

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## Message From the Councilman

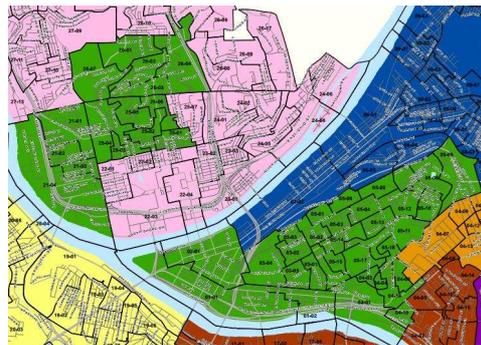
Happy New Year and Greetings from District 6:

The goal of this newsletter is to provide residents with a summary overview of the year 2012 in District 6. It includes an update on the council district reapportionment plan, covers development efforts in the district such as the Shop n Save grocery and housing efforts in Manchester, reviews events our office hosted such as the 'Job Start' employment fair, and reviews some of the legislation that has been passed in Council last year.

Please take a moment of your time and review the information contained in this newsletter. I hope you find it informative. However, should you have additional concerns, questions or thoughts please feel free to contact me by phone at 412-255-2134 or by email at [daniel.lavelle@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:daniel.lavelle@pittsburghpa.gov). You can also reach us via our newly restructured website at [www.pittsburghpa.gov/district6/](http://www.pittsburghpa.gov/district6/).

## Reapportionment Map Approved by Council

The City of Pittsburgh is required by law to realign its district boundaries after each decennial census. As previously reported in our newsletters, a Reapportionment Committee was created by Council to aid in the redistricting process, with each Council member selecting one committee seat to represent their office.



\*Newly reapportioned District 6 in green

land, the Upper Hill/ North Oakland, and Perry South. All are encouraged to contact the office at 412-255-2134 to express their concerns, issues, thoughts and ideas as we work to establish new partnerships with our new district neighbors.

The approval of the new district lines resulted in the following changes to District 6:

A map drafted by the Committee was submitted to City Council for review in the fall. Upon receipt, council-members met to discuss the proposal, leading to further changes primarily made to Districts 2, 3 and 4. Final approval to the revised reapportionment plan was given by Council on December 11 with an 8-1 vote. I was the dissenting vote due to my and the communities concerns over the splitting

of the Central Northside neighborhood.

Although I was against dividing Central Northside, I am reiterating my commitment to continue working closely with the community and Council President Harris for the greater good of the Northside.

In addition, I welcome to District 6 the residents of the newly added precincts in West Oak-

**Precincts ceded:** 2-2 (Strip District); 4-2, 4-5 and 4-16 (West/South Oakland); 22-1, 22-2 and 22-3 (Allegheny West and part of Central Northside)

**Precincts gained:** 4-6 (West Oakland); 5-9 (Upper Hill / North Oakland); 26-1 and 26-4 (Perry South)

## Downtown Dog Park in the Works

There is a renaissance taking place in Downtown Pittsburgh. Data reveals a startling 25% residential population growth since 2000, a reflection of the area's increasing allure as an ideal place to live. With the rise of the residential population arrives a whole new set of needs, wants and concerns. As

Councilman, it is my duty to address residents' issues and make best use of the tools at my disposal.

More homes Downtown also means more pets. In response to resident calls for a Downtown dog park, a piece of land in an urban landscape where pets can roam

freely, we are pleased to announce that our office has partnered with the Downtown Neighborhood Association (DNA) and Mayor Ravenstahl to make the request a reality. The Downtown dog park is currently being planned to be developed

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**DOG PARK, continued from P-1**

by the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge, across from CAPA High School.

We are in the last phase of pulling all the financial resources together and hope to have the dog park open by early spring. This is exciting news for Downtown, yet another signal that the area is increasingly becoming a residential destination for the City of Pittsburgh. Should you have any questions or suggestions, you can also reach out to our office at 412-255-2134.



**Hill District Shop 'n Save Back on Track**



*Councilman Lavelle speaks at press conference announcing closure of funding gap.*

After decades without a full service grocery store and after years of hard work to make the dream a reality, the funding gap that existed in the development plans of the Shop 'n Save grocery store and retail center has been finally closed. Construction has once again resumed.

By the time you receive this newsletter, on-site vertical construction will have started, with an expected completion date of late spring/early summer, 2013.

In total, this is an \$11.5 million dollar project that will provide a 30,000 square-foot

full-service Shop 'n Save, 6,800 square feet of retail space, and over 100 jobs. The opening of the Shop 'n Save marks the first full-service grocery store in the Hill District in over 30 years. This is exciting news for the area as well as the City of Pittsburgh.



*Construction has begun on the long awaited grocery store.*

**Lavelle Sponsors Bill Package to Strengthen EORC & Update Disparity Study**

I am keenly aware of the obstacles faced by minority and women owned enterprises (MWBEs) in securing contracts for city subsidized projects. In an effort to address these issues, I co-sponsored, together with Councilman Burgess, a set of bills aimed at improving MWBE participation in city awarded contracts.

City Council approved in December bills 2012-0530 and 2012-0533 to strengthen the Equal Opportunity Review Commission's (EORC) ability to accurately track minority and female owned business participation in city contracts. As reported in an audit from the Controller's office earlier this year, the EORC has not been able to track its goals of 18% minority participation and 7% female participation in city contracts. Bill 2012-0530 now allows the EORC to track MWBE participation in city contracts, while also enabling the commission to penalize contractors who violate quotas.



*Council deliberates over EORC bill package during a post agenda*

Additionally, the EORC has been elevated to a departmental level, with directors that report directly to the mayor and issue quarterly and yearly reports to Council and the Mayor.

The companion piece, bill 2012-0533, authorizes the City to enter into an agreement or contract for the purpose of updating the City's disparity study from 2001.

The bills are an essential component of providing fair access and equal opportunities to disadvantaged businesses. They offer a powerful tool to ensure MWBEs receive equitable consideration in the City's contracting process.

Going into 2013, I hope to build on this victory, pushing for further policies and legislation that foster small business growth and provide employment opportunities to revitalize communities.



## Councilman Lavelle Sponsors 2012 Pittsburgh Hispanic Heritage Week and Pittsburgh Latino Heritage Soccer Cup



Market Square Hispanic Fair featured live music and tango dance lessons.

Pittsburgh has increasingly gained a reputation in recent years as a progressive city. Part of being progressive means being intentional in our efforts to embrace diversity. In turn, a more culturally diverse populace attracts young people who move to cities that offer the energy and creativity often associated with places that offer a wide mix of people. This is crucial for Pittsburgh, which after decades of witnessing a shrinking population, experienced its first year of population growth in 2010.

In a celebration of the diversity Pittsburgh has to offer, I along with Mayor Ravenstahl hosted the first annual Pittsburgh Hispanic Heritage Week from October 1<sup>st</sup> to October 7<sup>th</sup>. The week long celebrations coincided with the nationally designated Hispanic Heritage Month.

Hispanic Heritage Week was an

opportunity to shed a spotlight on the contributions of a growing Hispanic community in the City of Pittsburgh. A community that will play a key role to the future success of our region.

During the week, I chaired a Post Agenda held in Council Chambers to initiate a dialogue



Councilman Lavelle and speakers during Latino post agenda

between City Government and Latino organizations. Council members discussed how the City can better serve and address the needs of the growing Latino population in Pittsburgh. Invitees similarly discussed how

their organizations could assist Pittsburgh in becoming an even more welcoming place to live.

Additional highlights from the week long festivities included a fair held in Market Square on October 5<sup>th</sup> which encouraged exposure and patronage of various diverse Latino business owners and organizations throughout the city. Salsa, tango and Caribbean music were on display as dancers gave performances while people enjoyed the food and information offerings from various vendors stationed throughout the square.

Lastly, we are pleased to report on the great success of the first annual Pittsburgh Latino Heritage Soccer Cup. A total of 12

teams participated in the 6 versus 6 tournament at the Schenley Park Oval in what proved to be an inspirational showcase of diversity, a testament of the power of sport in bringing people together from different backgrounds. After an intense final, the Azurri, a team made up of players of Italian heritage, edged out FC Pittsburgh to lay claim to the 2012 Latino Heritage Cup.



## Councilman Lavelle Hosts 'Job Start' Employment & Resource Fair

The Pittsburgh 'Job Start' Employment & Resource Fair was held on October 6, 2012 at Point Park University's Student Activities Center in Downtown Pittsburgh. Prior to the event, our office surveyed the combined districts of Councilman Lavelle and State



Attendees at 'Job Start' Fair

Representative Jake Wheatley to identify what were thought to be the top barriers to employment.

The survey revealed the top 3 employment obstacles to be criminal backgrounds, lack of educational support and lack of

transportation. Since criminal backgrounds topped the list of concerns, our office agreed that a job fair focused on helping individuals with prior criminal records would address a very real need in our communities.

The initiative was sponsored by Councilman Lavelle in partnership with the Office of Jake Wheatley, Jr., The National Council for Urban Justice &

**Continued on P-4**

## City Planning Receives Application for Expansion of Mexican War Streets Historic District

Pittsburgh is a city steeped in history. It is defined by its distinguished and varied neighborhoods that offer unique experiences not found anywhere else in the country. The storied traditions of our city are reflected in historic structures and neighborhoods that have attracted national attention, from filmmakers turning the city into a Little Hollywood to tourists scouting its architectural treasures.

The Northside particularly offers a wealth of historic gems to discover and explore. To preserve the historic nature of its Victorian townhomes, the Mexican War Streets was granted historic designation status from the City of Pittsburgh in 1972. Earlier this

year, the Department of City Planning received an application from the neighborhood to expand its historic boundaries to more than double its current size.

The proposal for the expansion of the Mexican War Streets' historic boundaries was reviewed in December by the Historic Review Commission (HRC).

Proponents and opponents of the plan spoke out at the hearing.



Central Northside

Positives listed included the potential for historic designation to act as an economic driver for the neighborhood, as well as preventing unwanted demolitions of properties. Those speaking out

against the proposal expressed concern over the lack of community input in the application submission, as well as economic concerns for homeowners required to adhere to a set of construction standards to meet historic criteria.

After hearing both sides, the HRC board voted to approve the application with recommendations to reduce the proposed boundary lines in the eastern and northeastern quadrants of the plan. The application now goes to the Planning Commission for review and approval in January of 2013, after which it gets sent to City Council for a final vote. In the meantime, residents located within the proposed boundary lines are encouraged to reach out to contact our office at 412-255-2134 or at [www.pittsburghpa.gov/district6/](http://www.pittsburghpa.gov/district6/), with questions or to voice their opinions in favor or against the historic expansion application.

### 'Job Start', continued from P-3

Peace, North Shore Community Alliance, and the University of Pittsburgh's Center for Social and Urban Research. The event featured various social service providers and community stakeholders such as Citizen's Bank, North Shore Community

Alliance, Northside Coalition for Fair Housing, Old Navy, Hill CDC, JobLinks, Pennsylvania State Troopers, State Representative Wheatley's office, Citizen's Care Insurance, Mon-Valley Initiative, Urban League Employment Division, NAACP and the Black Political

Empowerment Project.

Given the strong turn out, Councilman Lavelle has confirmed he plans on hosting a similar job fair in the spring of 2013. If you have any ideas, questions or concerns as relates to the job fair please feel free to contact us at 412-255-2134.



## Council Approves 2013 Budget & Suspends Night Time Parking Meter Enforcement

Pittsburgh City Council approved the City's 2013 budget on December 17. The \$470 million operating budget and \$65 million capital budget sees no tax increases over the previous year. The operating budget covers the city's daily operating expenses. The capital budget covers allocations for long-term projects and long-term financing of assets.

In addition, City Council revisited legislation that suspended night-time enforcement of parking meters from 10pm to 6pm. The order was set to expire on January of 2013, and would affect the neighborhoods of Downtown, North Shore, South Side, Oakland, Shadyside, Strip Dis-



Electronic parking meter

trict and Squirrel Hill.

The 10pm enforcement was originally set in 2010 to offset lost revenue from parking tax monies used to cover the City's pension fund-gap. The allocation averted state takeover of the City's finances, with \$735 mil-

lion in parking tax revenues over 31 years dedicated to the pension fund. To make up for the lost tax dollars, enforcement times for parking meters were extended to 10pm before the order was suspended per Council approval shortly thereafter.

During the discussions, Councilman Lavelle questioned whether enough revenue would be foregone to warrant the 10pm limit. It was noted that in areas such as Downtown, on-street parkers would simply opt for the cheaper parking garages between the hours of 6pm-10pm, thereby bringing into question whether the extension would have any real impact in generating enough

money to cover the parking-tax revenue gap.

For this and other reasons, the Councilman voted in favor of extending the 6pm enforcement cut-off until June 30, 2013. The additional time will allow the City to continue its installation of electronic pay-meters, and it will allow Council to review the numbers in the complicated equation for funding the pension and ensuring lost revenue from the parking tax is appropriately covered. The extension of the 6pm cut-off was approved by City Council, and the issue will be revisited in the summer of 2013, when a final decision will be made.



## Columbus Square and Renaissance Programs Bring Housing Options to Manchester



Since taking office, I have worked closely with Manchester Citizens Corporation (MCC) on new housing initiatives. Their work has been instrumental in preserving the historic housing stock of the neighborhood and fostering the development of new homes through their Columbus Square and Renaissance housing programs.

Columbus Square is a five-year project to construct 31 new homes in the former American Electric site, which had been vacant for 20 years. Councilman Lavelle participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony in December of 2011 to commemorate completion of the first 5 units of Phase I. Phase II is currently underway, as Fourth River Development LLC works to complete 4 additional lots for sale and build-out.

The Renaissance housing program, a 38-unit, for-sale redevelopment of a former multi-family portfolio that was acquired through HUD foreclosure, has also entered Phase II of development. Through this program, dozens of historic properties will be renovated, thereby preserving Manchester's historic fabric. The first phase included 9 units, with 4 units on Columbus Avenue. The second phase consists of 10 units. The total development cost for these first two phases is \$5 million. The renovations of the Renaissance program help to preserve the character of the older architecture while adding modern touches to the interior.

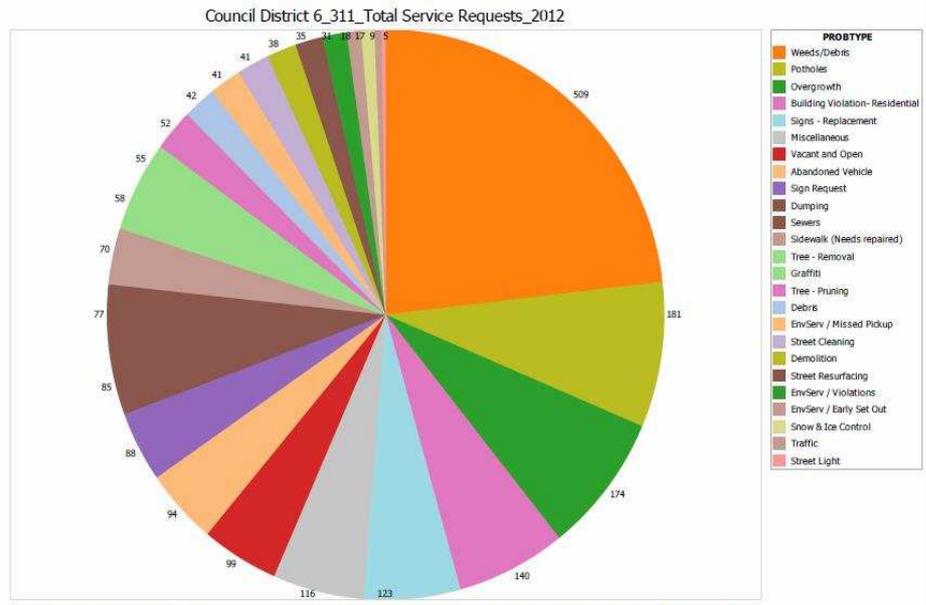
Should you have any questions regarding Columbus Square or Renaissance, please contact the MCC at 412-323-1743.

## Constituent Services Statistics for District 6

One of the principal roles of any council office is to ensure that constituents are properly connected to the appropriate city departments and authorities whenever city services are needed.

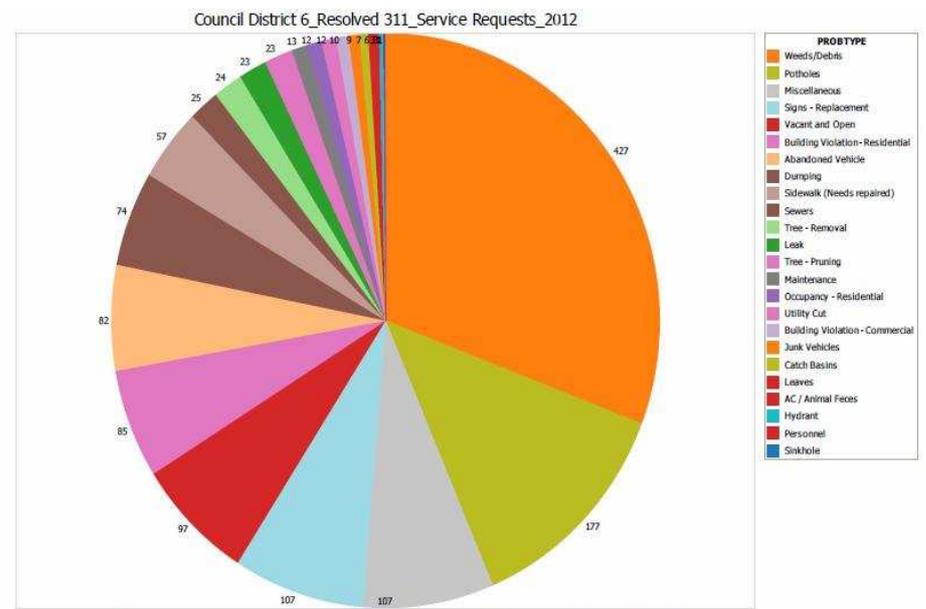
Following are pie graphs that chart the number of 311 service requests received and completed in District 6. As can be noted in the graphs, the top 4 calls were related to issues with overgrown weeds, debris, potholes and building violations. The evidence supports the Councilman's policy focus of addressing abandoned lots and vacant buildings.

**As you will see, not all issues have been resolved. However, we are trying. Please contact us if your issue is still outstanding.**



2,198 Service Requests (top 25 categories) were submitted to Mayor Ravenstahl's 311 Service Center from January 1, 2012 to 11/30/2012 11:45:58 AM for Councilman Lavelle's District 6.

### 2,198 Service Request from 01/01/2012 to 11/30/2012



1,385 Service Requests (top 25 categories) that were submitted to Mayor Ravenstahl's 311 Service Center from January 1, 2012 to 11/30/2012 11:45:58 AM for Councilman Lavelle's District 6, have been recorded in the 311 database system as Resolved/Completed.

### 1,385 Service Request from 01/01/2012 to 11/30/2012 resolved/completed to date



## 2012 Legislative Summary

**2012-0235, passed 3/27, Sponsored by Councilpersons Lavelle, Smith and Burgess:** Will of Council calling upon Florida State Gov. Rick Scott and the Florida Attorney General to re-open the investigation into the shooting of Trayvon Martin, and the Florida State Legislature to amend or repeal the Florida Statute 776.012 Justifiable Use of Force, also known as the "Stand your ground" law.

**2012-0014, passed 4/17, Sponsored by Councilman Lavelle:** Ordinance amending and supplementing the Pittsburgh Code by requiring financial institutions seeking to become City depositories to make a commitment to community reinvestment and responsible banking and instructing the City Controller to evaluate banks with which the City does business as to their success or failure in meeting this commitment.

**2012-0295, passed 5/1, Presented by Councilman Lavelle:** Resolution providing for the designation of certain public properties within the Hill District and Polish Hill neighborhoods to become permanent, public, passive open space under the Greenways for Pittsburgh program, to be known as the Bigelow Greenway.

**2012-0244, passed 5/8, Sponsored by Councilpersons Lavelle, Burgess, Harris, Dowd and Smith:** Resolution authorizing a Cooperative Agreement or Agreements with the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh and the Sports & Exhibition Authority of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County providing for the assignment of parking tax revenues from new interim parking on the footprint of the Civic Arena for the purpose of Hill District Redevelopment.

**2012-0702, passed 9/4, Presented by Councilman Lavelle:** Resolution authorizing the Mayor or the Director of City Planning, to enter into a Grant Agreement with International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) as a participant in the IBM Smarter Cities Challenge. IBM will provide \$350,000.00 in consulting services at their own expense. The services are in support of IBM staff who will help the City of Pittsburgh identify ways to improve or enhance transportation solutions.

**2012-0533, passed 12/4, Sponsored by Councilpersons Lavelle and Burgess:** Resolution authorizing the Mayor and the City Solicitor to enter into an agreement or agreements or contract or contracts for the purpose of updating the City's disparity study, at a cost not to exceed \$250,000.

**2012-0530, passed 12/4, Sponsored by Councilpersons Lavelle and Burgess:** Ordinance amending the Pittsburgh Code by adding new language and amending current language to elevate the Equal Opportunity Review Commission to departmental status, as well as provide it with the ability to track minority and female business participation in city contracts.

**2012-0850, passed 12/11, Sponsored by Council President Harris:** Resolution adopting a reapportionment plan for Pittsburgh City Council.

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