



Message From the Councilman



**OFFICE OF COUNCILMAN
R. DANIEL LAVELLE**

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Greetings Residents of District 6-

On January 6th, I was inaugurated into my second term in office as the City Council representative to District 6. I am humbled and honored to have been given the opportunity to continue serving our district, and would like to thank you for your support.

As we head into the next four years together, I will remain steadfast in my commitment to issues of social justice. My inspiration in pursuing a position in public service has been my family, who instilled in me at a young age a sense of responsibility to give back to our community, to give voice to those without a voice, to provide opportunity to those in need. The decisions I have made in my first term in office reflect these principles, as I have always considered, first and foremost, the social impacts of policies and development projects with an impact in our district and Pittsburgh as a whole. The vision, and goal, is to develop a stable workforce and provide employment opportunities to those in need, thereby creating self-sustainable communities where families can prosper and live for generations to come.

I am proud of the work we have been able to accomplish since 2010. In that time, we have seen the development of the Columbus Square and Renaissance housing projects in Manchester, witnessed the grand opening of the Thelma Lovette YMCA in the Hill District, celebrated the opening of the Shop 'n Save as the first grocery store in the Hill District in 30 years, and watched Downtown continue to grow its residential population.

Legislatively, I introduced a Responsible Banking Bill to spur investment in low-moderate income communities, the Vacant Property Registry bill to hold banks accountable for vacant properties under their purview, and a bill to strengthen the City's Equal Opportunity Review Commission to better ensure minority and women owned business participation in city subsidized projects.

A Historic Day for the Hill District

October 17, 2013 will forever be remembered as a historic day in the Hill District community.

As elected officials, community representatives and Hill residents convened beneath the tent in front of the newly opened Shop n Save grocery store in the Centre Heldman Plaza to celebrate its grand opening. Councilman Lavelle spoke to the community's perseverance in ensuring the long awaited full service grocery store became a reality. It was the community who never gave up on the dream of the grocery, who insisted on a full service store, who put the needed pressure on elected officials to guarantee the



fulfillment of a dream 3 decades in the making.

This is their store, as the Councilman reminded attendees, one which eliminates the food desert in the Hill and which will be supported by its current residents, future residents, and others from the greater City of Pitts-

burgh.

While the ceremonies were underway, shoppers streamed in and out of the store with cartloads of fresh groceries. It was the realization of a vision long in the making, and the excitement in the air was palpable.

Shop n Save is the anchor of a plaza that will have an additional

6,900 square feet of space. Leases have been signed for Dollar Bank, Nationwide Insurance, Crazy Mocha Coffee, Subway and Cricket Communications to become tenants early next year. Centre Ave continues to grow and come alive, the fu-

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ture looking bright as one catalyst of development leads to another, strengthening the Hill District community.

A couple blocks up the street from Centre Ave, at the former Ozanam Cultural Center on Enoch St, another celebration was taking place. The non-profit Center that CARES was hosting a ribbon cutting for the renovation of Ozanam to create the Jeron Grayson Community Center.

The project is the inspiration of

the Grayson family in response to the tragic loss of Jeron Grayson, who at 18 years of age was the innocent victim of gun violence. The example set by the Grayson's is one that should be highlighted throughout our communities. By turning a tragedy into the impetus to create something positive, to create something good out of something bad, the Jeron Grayson Community Center will provide a safe haven for at-risk youth in the Hill District. This has indeed been a historic day for the Hill District, and one that we hope to see repeated several times again in the future.



Councilman Lavelle at Jeron Grayson groundbreaking

Opening the Doors of Opportunity

The Door Campaign is a non-profit organization that focuses on opening new innovative doors of opportunity to the urban community.

The educational model of urban sustainable agriculture is the door that is trying to be opened on the North Side. Within this model, Pittsburgh's 1st operational non-profit Aquaponic system has come about.

Aquaponics is the process by which fish and plants are raised together in a symbiotic, mutually beneficial relationship. Because of these efforts, young men and

women will have the opportunity to learn how to grow, harvest and eat food sustainably. They will also learn to sell the product to local produce and fish businesses.

Quincy Kofi Swatson, a North Side native, is the mastermind behind this idea. He has a team of two other young talented men, Devaughn Copeland and Andre Jones who are helping with this undertaking. I want to congratulate these young men on following thru with their dreams and passing the baton to the next generation through education.



Councilman Lavelle with Quincy Swatson

Making Pittsburgh a Livable City for All

In recent years, the City of Pittsburgh has been named one of the most livable cities in the United States. Although this is an award that should certainly be celebrated, it obscures the fact that Pittsburgh has one of the most disenfranchised African American populations for metro areas in the US, for whom the unemployment rate is the 11th highest in the country and the poverty rate is the 3rd highest in the country.

To help address this problem, Councilman Lavelle is currently at work on a piece of legislation that amends and expands Pittsburgh Works, a law approved in 2001 that requires 35% of all work hours performed on city subsidized projects to be performed by city residents.

The goal is to include additional language that provides opportunities to low-moderate income

residents. The main provisions include:

- Definition of a disadvantaged worker: A person who, as of the date of hire to perform work on a covered construction project, has a household income at or below fifty-percent (50%) of area median income (AMI), or faces other barriers to employment, such as having prior involvement with the criminal justice system.
- Continue requirement that 35% of all work hours be performed by city residents, with the additional requirement that 15% of all project work hours be performed by disadvantaged workers.
- Require at least 50% of project work hours performed by apprentices to be

performed by city residents, with 25% being performed by disadvantaged workers.

- Require the establishment of First Source Hiring Centers in low-moderate income census tracts to connect residents to training programs and employment opportunities.

Requiring that city subsidized projects provide economic opportunities for not only city residents, but also hard to employ city residents will increase their earning capacity, decrease levels of poverty, and increase the city's tax revenue.

In addition, by requiring a percentage of apprentice work hours to be performed by city residents and disadvantaged workers, individuals are given the tools to ensure their long-term sustainability, as they receive the train-

ing and certification needed to obtain future employment in the trades.

This is all made possible through the First Source Centers established in low-moderate income census tracts. The centers will increase the ease of access by disadvantaged workers to training programs that prepare them for incoming opportunities on covered construction projects, and which connect them to these employment opportunities.

With this infrastructure in place, and by defining disadvantaged workers and requiring their participation in city-subsidized projects, Pittsburgh has the opportunity to take a progressive, proactive approach to address the needs of its underserved community, truly making it a "Most Livable City" for all.

Councilman Lavelle Leads Effort to Create Conservation Districts in Pittsburgh

Councilman Lavelle, joined by Councilpersons Darlene Harris, Bruce Kraus and Natalia Rudiak, sponsored legislation this past summer to authorize the Department of City Planning to implement the creation of Conservation Districts in Pittsburgh.

The move was prompted by a desire to protect those Pittsburgh neighborhoods that seek to promote specific neighborhood characteristics without imposing the more restrictive requirements that come with a traditional Historic District designation.

Unlike a traditional Historic District, a Conservation District does not protect existing building features. Instead, it addresses neighborhood character on a broader level by focusing on future change, such as new construction and additions.



For most Conservation Districts, alterations to the “skin” of a building are not regulated, only major alterations, additions or new construction. The level of design review is thus not as great

as would be required in a Historic District.

A community process, including workshops and stakeholder meetings, is used to determine which local objectives a potential Con-

servation District should support. Examples of objectives may include:

- Maintenance of a neighborhood with distinctive character
- Mass scale regulation of new buildings in older neighborhoods
- Promotion of pedestrian friendly streetscapes
- Protection from demolition of buildings that promote neighborhood character
- Support of reuse of existing buildings

Lower Hill Development Update

One of the Councilman’s main priorities since coming into office has been the proper redevelopment of the Lower Hill 28 acres site. The main consideration has always been the long-term economic viability of the Hill District and the City of Pittsburgh, to ensure optimal economic and social benefits for Pittsburghers and, in particular, Hill District residents.

To work towards that goal, Councilman Lavelle assembled a team called the Lower Hill District Working Group (LHWG), composed of members from the Hill District community, workforce development organizations and business development organizations. They are currently engaged in negotia-



tions with the Pittsburgh Penguins, the master developer of the 28 acres site, to finalize an agreement intended to maximize participation by the Hill community

in the pre-construction, construction and post-construction phases of site redevelopment. The document, once completed, will be known as the Community

Collaboration & Implementation Plan (CCIP). In the discussion with the Pens to draft the CCIP, significant progress has been made to ensure inclusion of the Greater Hill District community in the development and post development opportunities. These include guarantees for Hill District involvement in the job opportunities, business opportunities and ownership opportunities in the site development.

In addition to these victories, the LHWG has worked diligently to ensure that the design of the development works to the benefit of the Hill District, versus it being an extension of Downtown. These successes are to be celebrated, while points

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of contention remain to be hashed out with the Pens. They include:

1) Affordable Housing: LHWG is advocating that at least 30% of the total housing development be affordable, with a percentage of those units being affordable to the average income of a Hill District resident. Pens currently are committing to a minimum of 20%, with none of those units being affordable to the average income of a Hill District resident.

2) Community Collaboration Fund:

Agreement has been reached on the establishment of a fund to support implementation of the CCIP. Current disagreement is on the seed funding for this fund, with the



Rendering of Lower Hill Development. Not a final design plan.

LHWG advocating for the Pens to provide seed funding.

3) Revenue Stream: LHWG is advocating for a dedicated revenue stream from the development of the 28 acres site to be used for the funding of development projects in the Greater Hill

District. An example would be money from a surcharge on the site developers. The Pens have yet to commit to identifying this revenue stream.

4) Executive Committee: as defined in the CCIP, the role of the Executive Committee is to

oversee implementation and enforcement of the provisions in the CCIP. Current disagreement exists over the structure of the Executive Committee, with the LHWG advocating for more equitable representation from the community on major voting decisions.

As finalization of negotiations with the Pens is approached, it is imperative that the community becomes informed on the various issues surrounding the site, so we can come together as a strong, unified voice to advocate on behalf of an agreement that truly benefits the Hill and its residents.

Inaugural Health and Wellness Weekend



Pittsburgh, Dollar Bank and many more.

On Sunday, September 15 there were over 30 health-care organizations providing information and health screenings. Attendees participated in healthy cooking demonstrations, a children's obstacle course, a rock-climbing wall, equipment and class orientations, line dancing, and mural painting for families and kids.

We were able to engage close to 1,000 participants across the Pittsburgh region during these events. If you're interested in participating in the future, please contact Bernelle Wood in the District 6 Office at 412-255-2134.

Councilman Lavelle's Office and The People's Office of State Representative Jake Wheatley hosted the inaugural Health and Wellness Weekend on Friday, September 13th at the Thelma Lovette YMCA.

Participants were invited to a free day at the YMCA, with an opening reception featuring Dr. Jeanette South-Paul who spoke about the importance of a healthy family.

On Saturday, September 14th over 150 people participated in the UpHill 5K along Centre Avenue. The People's Office Annual Community Appreciation Day was held after the race at Kennard Field and featured free healthy food options, children's activities, and a job fair which was hosted by Council District 6. Employers included MEN-TORS Wealth Building Initiative, UPMC, University of

Duquesne Law Clinic Offers Legal Services to Hill Residents

Duquesne University's School of Law celebrated on September 19 the opening of its new Tribone Center for Clinic Education in the Uptown Hill District neighborhood of District 6.

The law clinic will provide free legal services to those in need but who cannot afford to pay for the services. The clinic serves veterans, non profit organizations, low income individuals and families and the underserved. Clients are helped with civil rights, appellate court, family law, unemployment compensation and other specific legal matters. The clinic allows for students to have live client experiences which have proven to be very successful.

The clinic is located at 914 5th Avenue where there are client meeting rooms, classrooms and a fully equipped moot courtroom.

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Lavelle Teams Up For Redd Up Days

On Friday, September 6, Commander Holmes and the Zone 2 Police hosted a Meet Your Commander on Your Corner event in the Hill District.

In attendance were representatives from the Department of Public Works, the Bureau of Building Inspection, Mayor Luke Ravenstahl's office, State Representative Wheatley's office and Hill District residents and business owners.

Our office would like to give a huge thank you to the Department of Public Works for outsourcing resources to the Hill District on September 5th and 6th for Redd Up days to address issues that Hill District constituents brought to our attention by calling, writing, e-

mailing or pointing out during the walk with the commander. These included service requests such as cutting overgrown lots, picking up debris and painting crosswalks.

We would also like to applaud Commander Holmes and his staff for taking the initiative to host such a productive event. This event would not have been possible without the residents and business owners that took advantage of such an opportunity. It was a great example of the positive work



Commander Holmes speaks to residents during "Commander on Your Corner" event.

that can be accomplished when we all come together to work towards the common goal of improvement of our communities.

Because of this success, we have called on the Department of Public Works to assist our office with a Redd Up day for Perry Hilltop. Thank you to Angel Gober of Perry Hilltop Citizens Corporation for getting the word out and sending in the requests from residents. We have sent all the information over to Public Works who will soon be taking care of these requests.

As always, if you see overgrown grass, weeds, debris or other issues of that nature please be sure to make a 311 request.

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It will enable the law school and its students to directly deliver much-needed legal services to citizens in the community.

The law school's seven clinical programs—which benefit underserved families, individuals and communities—address the areas of civil rights, community enterprise, federal practice, pro se motions, unemployment, urban development and veterans issues. For more information, contact Duquesne's Development Office at 412-396-5690.



2013 Latino Heritage Soccer Tournament



Under the "Fit in Six" Health and Wellness banner, the office of Councilman Lavelle looks to put together events that promote active and healthy lifestyles.

Working together with the Mayor's Office of Youth Policy and ALPFA, the Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting, the District 6 office hosted the 2nd Annual Latino Heritage Cup, a 6 versus 6 soccer tournament held in the Schenley Oval at Schenley Park on October 12th and 13th.

In addition to promoting healthy active lifestyles, the goal of the tournament was to highlight the diversity

of cultures Pittsburgh has to offer by bringing together people from different backgrounds through sport. The Latino Heritage Cup is hosted every year during Hispanic Heritage Month, and this year's edition was attended by players from South America, Central America, Africa, the Middle East and Europe.

A total of 12 teams participated, with the

champions Barcelona, made up of players from Mexico, defeating the Turkish-Iranian team Konya Spor on penalty kicks after a 1-1 draw.

Thanks go out to the participants, ALPFA and the Mayor's Office for making this year's tournament a success, as we look forward to the next edition in the fall of 2014.



2013 Latino Heritage Cup champions Barcelona



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2013 Legislative Summary

2013-1284, presented 3/12, Sponsored by Councilman Lavelle: Will of Council urging Governor Tom Corbett to use tobacco settlement funds to re-start adultBasic, a health care program that provided coverage to Pennsylvanians who did not receive insurance from their employers and earned too much money to qualify for Medicaid, or were too young to receive Medicare.

2013-1307, passed 4/2, Sponsored by Councilman Lavelle: Resolution authorizing the adoption of a sewage facilities plan for the 28 acres site of the former

Civic Arena in the Lower Hill District.

2013-1450, presented 5/14, Sponsored by Councilman Lavelle: Will of Council stating support from City Council for Rivers Casino Workers demand for a free and fair process to form a union.

2013-1529, passed 5/23, Sponsored by Councilman Lavelle: Resolution authorizing the Sport and Exhibition Authority to file, together with Allegheny County, an application for a TIGER grant in the max amount of \$20 million for infrastructure development of the 28 acres site of the

former Civic Arena in the Lower Hill District.

2013-1647, passed 7/9, Sponsored by Councilpersons Daniel Lavelle, Darlene Harris, Natalia Rudiak, Bruce Kraus: Resolution authorizing the Department of City Planning to implement the creation of Historic Conservation Districts in Pittsburgh. A Conservation District is a zoning overlay that protects certain neighborhood characteristics.

2013-1648, passed 7/9, Sponsored by Councilman Lavelle: Ordinance amending the Pittsburgh City Code for valet park-

ing, which shifts management responsibilities of valet licensing from the Police Department to the Department of Public Works, and which establishes penalties for violations.

2013-1666, passed 9/24, Sponsored by Councilpersons Daniel Lavelle and Theresa Smith: Ordinance establishing a vacant property registry for abandoned residential properties that are pending foreclosure. These are properties to which a bank has initiated foreclosure proceedings and where the property has been vacated, but in which the foreclosure process has not been completed.

