

January  
2012



2011 Year-End  
ANNUAL  
Newsletter

# CITY OF PITTSBURGH

## DISTRICT 6

OFFICE OF  
COUNCILMAN  
R. DANIEL  
LAVELLE



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Proudly Serving:

Allegheny West,  
California-Kirkbride,  
Central Business  
District, Central  
Northside, Fineview, Hill  
District, Manchester,  
Mexican War Streets,  
Perry Hilltop, the Strip  
District, West and South  
Oakland, and Uptown

## Message from the Councilman: Looking Ahead to 2012

Greetings Residents of District 6-

With great optimism and excitement my office greeted the close of a productive 2011 to look forward to what promises to be a strong 2012. It is hard to believe how quickly my first 2 years in office have come and gone, and I look forward to using the momentum gained from the first half of my tenure to continue advocating on behalf of and defending the best interests of the residents of Pittsburgh in general and District 6 specifically.

My goal for 2012 is to use the experience gained from my freshman and sophomore years in office to push for development, legislation and economic and social initiatives that will continue to revitalize, rejuvenate and strengthen our families and communities. In addition, I look forward to being able to use my new position on Council as the *Chair of Land Use and Economic Development* to achieve these goals.

We know employment plays a major role in ensuring the vitality and stability of our neighborhoods, so I am excited to announce that my office has already begun working on organizing a job fair for 2012. In the meantime, I encourage all to keep an eye out to our monthly job newsletters for the latest employment postings.

Development wise, 2012 is scheduled to witness the beginning or completion of a number of key developments including but not limited to: phases II and III of Columbus Square in Manchester; Federal Hill and Garden Theater Block in Central Northside; the Thelma Lovette YMCA, Shop 'n Save grocery store and Dinwiddie St Town Homes in the Hill District; Conversion of the Shanahan Building, Fifth Avenue High School and a parking lot into new housing in Uptown; and The Gardens at Market Square and PNC's world headquarters downtown.

We also seek to build on the success of 2011's Fit-in-Six Youth Basketball Tournament and Health & Wellness Fair by hosting these events for 2012. Ultimately, my office will work on establishing these initiatives as annual occurrences, with the 2012 Health & Wellness Fair expected to be scheduled for some time in the spring and the 2012 Youth Basketball Tournament for some time over the summer.

In 2012 I plan to remain true to my initial pledge to make District 6 more attractive, safe, and prosperous for everyone. However, I can not do it without you and I look forward to working with you towards these ends.

R. Daniel Lavelle

414 Grant Street  
510 City-County Building  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
412-255-2134 ph  
412-255-0737 fax  
[www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/district6/](http://www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/district6/)  
[www.facebook.com/LavelleDistrict6](https://www.facebook.com/LavelleDistrict6)



## Hill District Master Plan Celebration

The release of the Hill District Master Plan is the culmination of an entire communities desire to ensure the Hill District's renaissance. A lot of work, resources and effort have gone into finalizing the Master Plan and making progress in the Hill a reality.

To honor the individuals and organizations that have made these accomplishments possible, a Hill District Celebration was held on November 10 at the Kaufmann Center. The event was open to all members of the community and was a great success. Many thanks go out to the Hill CDC in their help to organize the event and make it a reality.

A copy of the plan can be found at the Hill District Carnegie Library or online at: <http://www.greaterhilldistrictmasterplan.org/>

## Columbus Square Ribbon Cutting

On October 20<sup>th</sup> of 2011 a ribbon cutting ceremony celebrated the erection of the first five units, two of which were presold. Four of these units will be completed for customization upon purchase.



Rendering of Columbus Square

(continued on page 3)



# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN DISTRICT 6

## Hill District Development Update

### Centre/Heldman Plaza & Shop 'n Save

The Centre/Heldman Plaza, located across from the Hill House Association, will be open summer 2012, and will feature a full service Shop & Save grocery store with other retail space available for businesses looking to offer services in the Hill District. The first major retail tenant has already signed a lease, and Cricket Wireless will be located within the Centre/Heldman Plaza.



Rendering of Shop 'n Save

Minority and Woman Business Enterprise (MWBE) hiring goals have all exceeded 50%, which includes 880 hours completed. The Hill House Economic Development Corporation has also committed another 4,000 hours of MWBE labor before completion of the project. It is coming along smoothly, and I am pleased to inform you that most site development for the project has been completed. The first concrete pour for the foundation of the Centre/Heldman Plaza is scheduled to happen in mid January of 2012.



Rendering of Lower Hill Development

### Lower Hill District

In July the SEA awarded a \$2,909,000 contract for demolition of the Civic Arena to Noralco Corporation. Noralco's contract included MWBE participation of 27% and 6% with the largest portion of this commitment for interior asbestos abatement to Fullard Environmental, a local minority owned abatement contractor. As contractors mobilized, efforts were made to employ minority workers through communication with the First Source Center and the local trade unions. Work began in August with interior abatement and demolition followed by the removal of the exterior stainless steel skin starting in October. To date, more than 40% of labor dollars have been earned by minority workers. Completion of the removal of the roof panels is anticipated by the end of the year with deconstruction of the roof structure to begin in January. The project is currently on schedule for completion in May

### Thelma Lovette YMCA

The Thelma-Lovette YMCA, is on schedule to open in Spring 2012. The YMCA will feature a full size court, a lap pool, weight and aerobic rooms, along with a roof top deck. There will also be a child care center. Parking will be provided in the rear. Anyone interested in being a founding member should contact the YMCA.



Rendering of Thelma Lovette YMCA

### Dinwiddie Street

New housing on both sides of Dinwiddie Street will positively affect one of the most important corridors in the Hill District. The development combines new construction with the revitalization of existing structures, thus honoring the architectural heritage of the community.

The first phase of homes will be opening on March 1, 2010.



Dinwiddie Street housing



*(Columbus Square continued)*

Mayor Ravenstahl, Councilman Lavelle, and representatives from other organizations involved in the project gave remarks at the ceremony, noting the combined efforts of the project's partners that helped to realize a development with the potential of revitalizing a community.



*Councilman Lavelle & Mayor Ravenstahl at the ribbon cutting ceremony*

## Taco Bell Groundbreaking

The groundbreaking for a new Taco Bell on the Northside also took place on October 20<sup>th</sup>. The Taco Bell will be located at the corner of Allegheny and Ridge Avenues. It is expected to increase commercial activity in the area, provide jobs, and help attract more businesses to the Manchester neighborhood.



## 2012 Property Reassessments

Properties in the City of Pittsburgh have undergone a County mandated reassessment. The assessment of each property aims to reflect its market value for 2012.

To educate the public on the reassessment process, Mayor Ravenstahl's office scheduled a series of Education Program Outreach Dates. A session was scheduled in the Hill District at the auditorium of the Kaufmann Center on January 10<sup>th</sup>, and for the Northside at the Manchester Citizens Corporation on January 11<sup>th</sup>. Residents with questions about the assessments attended the outreach sessions to learn more about the appeals process.

On January 12<sup>th</sup>, Allegheny County Judge R. Stanton Wettick ruled to delay the use of 2012 assessment numbers until 2013. The new timeline extends the deadline for filing formal appeals to April 2, 2012. Informal appeals can also be requested by calling the Office of Property Assessment at 412-350-4600 by February 15. Formal appeal hearings will begin February 6 for hardship/high priority cases, which are defined as assessments that went up 45% or higher from their original value.

Some points to consider on the 2012 property reassessment process:

1. Review your assessment form carefully for any errors.
2. If there are data errors on the form, request an Informal Review to correct any mistakes.
2. If you disagree with your assessed value you may wish to file for a Formal Appeal.
3. Questions may be called in to the City by dialing 311.
4. You can always call our Council office at 412-255-2134 for the latest updates on the assessment process.

## District 6 Fit-in-Six: Health and Wellness Day

Fit-in-Six is a new initiative sponsored by Councilman Lavelle with the stated goal of raising awareness of healthy lifestyles. As the program continues to grow there will be different aspects that will be developed to support the initiative. This past September, the office hosted its first health and wellness day. In December, a basketball tournament was held for the City's youth between the ages of 10 – 20.

The first Fit-in-Six health and wellness day was held in Market Square. There were a variety of vendors available for residents and visitors alike to receive information on health issues that affect our society such as diabetes, hypertension and smoking cessation information. Blood pressure checks, prostate screenings and other health measurement services were given at no cost. Bidwell Training Center provided a food demonstration from their Culinary Arts program which informed attendees on how to make tasty snack using healthy ingredients. The day was capped off by line dancing with Roland Ford.

Sponsors of Fit-in-Six were Gateway Health Plan, UPMC and the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership. In 2012 the health and wellness day will be seen in District 6 in two ways. There will be a stand alone program in the spring as well as a partnership program in September with the Women's Walk for Peace.



*Health & Wellness Fair attendees at the Healthy Start booth*

## District 6 Fit-in-Six: 3-on-3 Youth Basketball Tournament



*Councilman Lavelle with 2<sup>nd</sup> place team in the 17-20 age group*

The Fit in Six Basketball Tournament was a great success at Pittsburgh Millionaires on Saturday, December 17, 2011, and plans for a second edition are already underway for the upcoming spring.

The Office of Councilman R. Daniel Lavelle partnered with the Hill Community Development Corporation, Point Park University, The University of Pittsburgh, A for the People Insurance Agency, Corporate Diversity Associates, YouthPlaces, Inc., and the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank to produce our first winter holiday basketball tournament. It was a positive community event attended by approximately 180 youth from various neighborhoods in the City of Pittsburgh.

Our office will continue its efforts to create positive opportunities for the young people we serve in District 6. Please contact Harry Johnson at 412-255-2134 if you would like to participate or be a sponsor of our 2012 spring basketball tournament.



*Councilman Lavelle with 1<sup>st</sup> place winners of all age groups*



## Allegheny Dwellings & Fineview Community Meeting

Councilman Lavelle works to ensure that his office takes a hands-on approach towards engaging the community in a positive manner. This past summer, to address concerns of violence expressed by residents in the communities of Allegheny Dwellings and Fineview, the District 6 office convened a large community meeting with the purpose of improving neighborhood relations and beginning a dialogue on ways to reduce incidents of violence.

Partnerships with various community stakeholders for the community conversation included the Allegheny Dwellings Residents' Council and member residents, Fineview Citizens Council, Housing Authority Executive Director Fulton Meachem and staff, Public Safety Director Michael Huss, Council President Darlene M. Harris, and Commander Rashall Brackney of Zone 1 Police.

The meeting established an open forum for dialogue to discuss various thoughts from neighbors and stakeholders. Ultimately, all are seeking a more collaborative approach towards ensuring the safety of a vibrant community. Our office will continue to work with all partners to ensure that all community members are represented and benefit from these meetings and efforts to increase public safety in the Allegheny Dwellings community and the greater Fineview neighborhood.

## Stay Warm for the Winter



The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps low income households meet their immediate home heating needs. The application window opened November 1<sup>st</sup> for the 2011 – 2012 winter season. This is a grant that you do not have to repay. You do have to meet certain income guidelines in order to qualify for the program.

LIHEAP can help in one of two ways. You can receive a cash grant that is a payment that is made to the utility company or fuel provider. It will appear as a credit to your bill. Or you can receive a Crisis Exception Grant if your heat has been terminated or you are in immediate threat of having your primary or secondary source that supplies your primary source terminated.

Finally, there is the Regular Crisis Component that provides additional funding if you have heating equipment that is broken or in need of repair that may jeopardize the heating of your home. These funds are available for homeowners and renters alike. If you want additional information or to apply for LIHEAP, contact 1-800-644-8090 if you are an Equitable Gas customer or 1-800-400-9276 for Dominion Peoples customers.

Duquesne Light and Equitable Gas offer Customer Assistance Programs (CAP). Both programs have income eligibility requirements. The

customer has to meet income guidelines that are equal to or less than 150% the poverty rate.

Duquesne Light requires that the account holder be an adult residing in the home as well as providing a maximum credit of \$700 for residential customers and \$1,800 for electric heat. Equitable Gas CAP requires that it must be for a gas account where the customer lives in a single unit dwelling. The customer cannot have multiple gas accounts in their name. The customer's base budget must be more than the CAP payment. The payment is calculated on a percentage basis of the monthly household income. If you would like more information and are a Duquesne Light customer please call 1-888-393-7600. Equitable Gas customers should call 1-877-577-8735.

The utility companies also offer a Low Income Usage Reduction Program (LIURP) for customers with an income equal to or above 150% of the federal poverty limits. Contact the number for your utility company to inquire about this program. The company can also provide you with information on the Dollar Energy Fund which is an additional source of relief after you have applied for LIHEAP.

## City Council Noise Ordinance Task Force



Council Chambers

One of Council's roles as representative of the people of Pittsburgh is to address everyday quality of life issues that affect its citizenry. The city code book regulates these day to day activities and is regularly updated to reflect changes of the times. Among these concerns, inadequate noise enforcement

has been commonly cited by residents of the City's 9 districts as a growing problem. To update, simplify, and strengthen the tools of noise enforcement, City Council created a Noise Ordinance Task Force (NOTF) to holistically revise the noise code. Members of the Task Force include Councilmen Lavelle, Kraus, Dowd and Council President Harris, with assistance from City Planning, the Law Department and the Police.

A noise expert was hired to review all sections of code that pertain to noise and offer recommendations on how the language could be streamlined, redundancies eliminated, and inconsistencies addressed. The NOTF has held monthly meetings with the noise expert in the past year to review common noise complaints and ways to strengthen the code to respond to these complaints. A call-in line was created to gather feedback on the noise issues that most affect Pittsburghers. The information formed the basis of the code revision recommendations, now in its final phase as the NOTF begins to compile the first draft of a wholly revised noise code.

Beginning in 2012, the NOTF is expected to present the new noise code to City Council for approval. It is an important first step to provide citizens and enforcement with the tool to address every-day noise nuisances.





# CONSTITUENT SERVICE GRAPHS

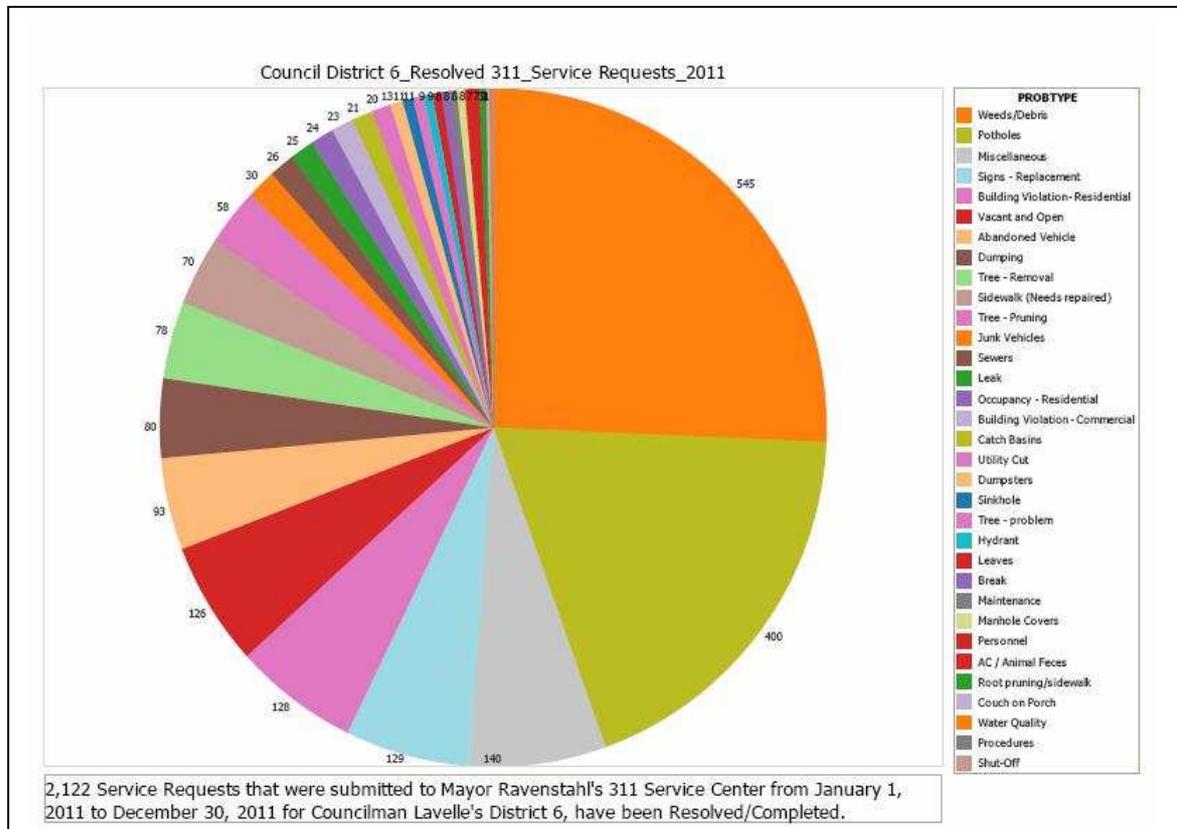
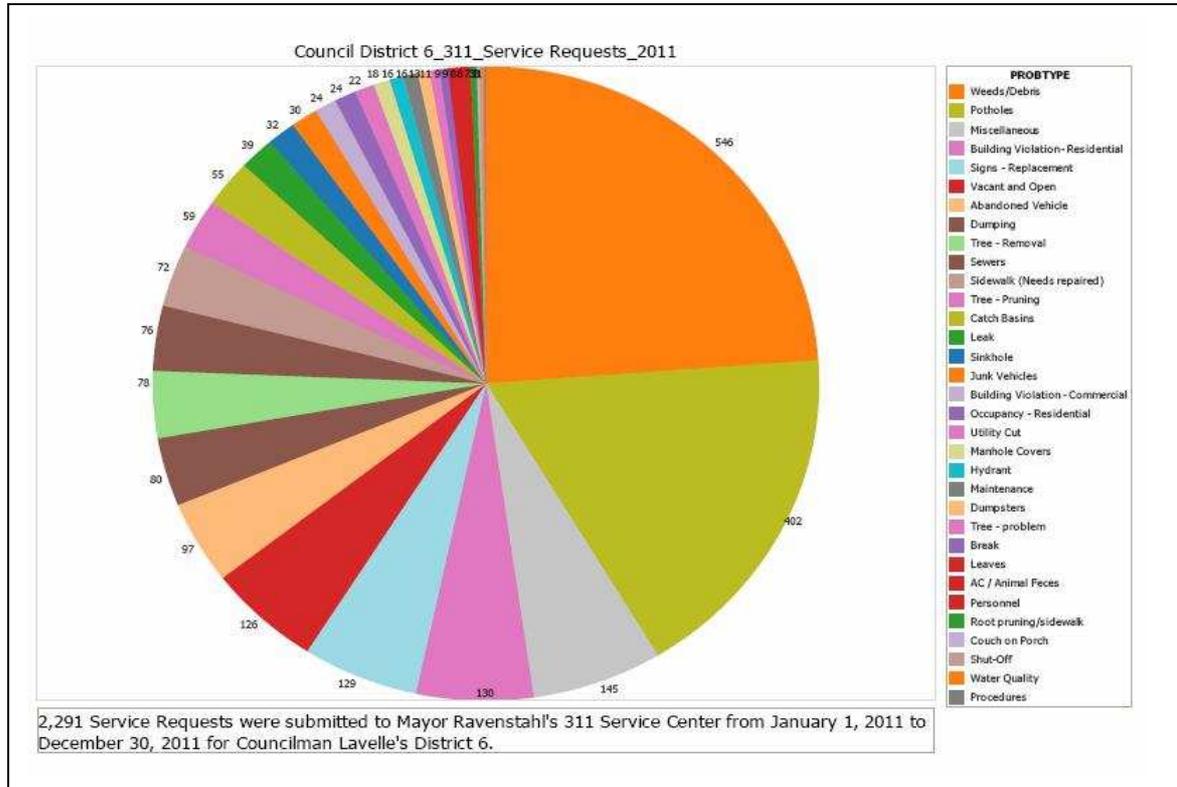
## Remote Site Visits

Our office has taken a proactive approach to working with our constituents in District 6. It is our belief that it is our obligation to provide as many opportunities as possible for you to directly interact with our office. With this being said, we have created two distinctive standing events that are currently taking place throughout our district, which are our District 6 'Monthly Meet & Greets' and District 6 'Mobile Office Visits'.

The following locations have been scheduled for District 6 'Mobile Office Visits'. Beginning in February, the meetings are to take place on a monthly basis. Please take the time to come out and speak with Councilman Lavelle about how our office can better assist you:

- **Community Human Services, 374 Lawn Street in South Oakland: second Wednesday of every month, from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm**
- **Hill District Carnegie Library at 2117 Centre Avenue: fourth Monday of every month, from 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm**
- **Manchester Citizens Corporation, 1319 Allegheny Ave in Manchester: second Thursday of every month, from 5:30pm – 7:00pm**

We hope to meet you at one of our future site visits!





## Councilman Lavelle's 2012 Legislative Preview

In my first 2 years on Council, I have gained and continue to develop a deep understanding of municipal legislative processes. My goal for 2012 is to harness that knowledge and push for legislation that addresses my constituency's quality of life concerns. On a broader level, I will continue to support and sponsor bills that work to effectively aid the revitalization efforts of low to moderate income neighborhoods. Below are a few of the initiatives my office will be looking into for 2012:

- Responsible Banking Bill:** Reintroduced to Council by Councilman Lavelle, the revised responsible banking bill includes measures to ensure greater investment by City depositories in low-moderate income communities
- Copper Theft Bill:** Though the City is preempted by State law regulating the sale of scrap materials, a provision extending the holding period by scrap dealers for purchases of scrap materials is being considered to curb the theft of items such as copper materials.
- Revised Noise Ordinance:** Working with Council's Noise Ordinance Task Force, a holistic revision of the City's Noise Ordinance is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2012
- Local Hiring Bill:** One of the long term efforts and one of the priorities for my tenure, this bill would work towards increasing employment opportunities for low-moderate income residents on City subsidized development projects.



## 2011 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



Please refer below for a summary of the major pieces of legislation that were introduced or approved by City Council in 2011. For more information on the status of bills which have yet to be approved by Council, please contact our office at 412-255-2134.

**2010-0568, passed 7/12, Sponsored by all of Council:** Ordinance requiring the retrofitting of construction vehicles at City subsidized projects. Also known as the "Clean Air Act of 2010", the intent is to reduce air-pollution levels in the City of Pittsburgh.

**2011-1480, passed 3/22:** Ordinance authorizing the City of Pittsburgh to enter into an intergovernmental cooperation agreement with the County of Allegheny under which the City and the County jointly will share and implement a financial reporting system known as Enterprise Resource Planning.

**2011-1615, died at the end of the 2011 legislative calendar, but has been reintroduced in 2012:** Ordinance prohibiting unfair discrimination in city hiring practices against persons previously convicted. Also known as the ban-the-box initiative, this bill would not require job applicants applying for City contracted positions to disclose prior convictions on their criminal record.

**2011-1916, passed 12/20, Sponsored by Councilman Dowd, Lavelle & Shields:** Ordinance regulating the use of electronic media for advertising and non-advertising signs as a special exception. Among the provisions included in the bill are restrictions as to where new electronic sign can be located, defined light level limits for electronic signs, and the creation of a mechanism for establishing special signage design districts. Councilman Lavelle has introduced an amendment that adds a definition for mid-level public destination facilities, which would provide guidelines for areas such as the Cultural District Downtown.

**2011-2244, passed 11/14, Sponsored by Councilman Lavelle:** Ordinance prohibiting refuse collection activities between the hours of 10pm-6am within any residentially zoned district, within 1000ft of a residentially zoned district, and within 100ft of a residential structure. A residential structure is defined in the bill as a structure where at least 50% of the floor space is used for residential purposes. This bill was created to protect residents downtown.

**2011-2317, passed 11/29, Sponsored by Councilman Lavelle & Peduto:** Ordinance suspending nighttime parking enforcement of parking meters after 6pm until January 1, 2013. An additional clause also suspends enforcement after 4pm on Fridays and all day Saturday and Sunday until January 1, 2012.

