



Office of Councilman Patrick Dowd  
 City of Pittsburgh  
 510 City-Council Building  
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 Pittsburgh, PA 15219

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Annual Report 2012

**Councilman Dowd fights for smart development of Strip District, Allegheny Riverfront**

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ing and 16 acres of land next to the 62nd Street Bridge in Upper Lawrenceville. Mayor Ravenstahl failed to leverage public assets in negotiations with a private developer, thereby turning his back on community plans for the redevelopment of the Allegheny Riverfront.

I will continue to fight for the community's plan and steadfastly advocate for the implementation of our collective set of hopes for greater public access to the river, the maintenance of neighborhood authenticity and public transit connectivity.

Sincerely,



The Buncher Company has used this 55 acre piece of property on the Allegheny Riverfront in the Strip District as a parking lot for over 30 years. The Buncher Company would now like to create a suburban style mall with private gated communities on this riverfront property, allowing for little public access to one of Pittsburgh's most vital public assets.

**Learn strategies to add value to your home or storefront at District 7 Renovation Workshop**

Would you like to learn more about how you can add value to your home, storefront, or community? Then join us on **Saturday, February 23rd from 10 am to 1 pm** in Bloomfield for a free workshop on the topic.

Councilman Dowd and the District 7 team will be hosting this free event at the **West Penn Hospital Winter Garden** with presentations and information tables top-

ics such as interior and exterior design, energy efficient renovations, City services, neighborhood beautification, landscaping, and more. Volunteer architects, landscape architects, and interior designers from the Design Center's Design Consults program will be available for brief one-on-one renovation consultations. **Reservations are required for mini-consultations by Tuesday, February 19th** with the District 7 office at 412-255-2140 or District7@pittsburghpa.gov.



**Council Member Patrick Dowd**

Councilman Patrick Dowd represents over 30,000 residents in District 7 who reside in the neighborhoods of Bloomfield, Highland Park, Lawrenceville, Morningside, Polish Hill, Strip District, and portions of Downtown, East Liberty, Friendship, and Stanton Heights, .

Councilman Dowd chairs the Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and serves on the boards of the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Riverlife, Pittsburgh Zoo, and the East Liberty Presbyterian Church.

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Pittsburgh City Council District 7

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Subscribe to the monthly District 7 e-newsletter by emailing: [nathaniel.hanson@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:nathaniel.hanson@pittsburghpa.gov) with "e-newsletter" in the subject line.

**Dear Neighbor,**

January 7, 2013

It's been an exciting year for District 7 and the City of Pittsburgh. As you will find in this report, I have worked to bring positive improvements to PWSA, ensure smart growth in Lawrenceville's business district, improve public facilities in Morningside and Highland Park, fight blighted properties, and ensure substantial protection of our citizens by introducing legislation setting strict regulations and controls for mineral extraction in the City.

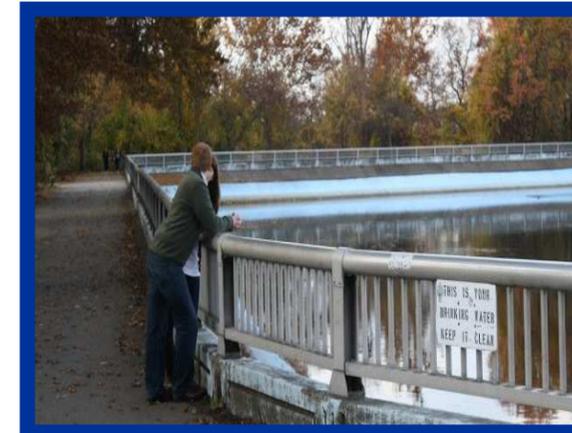
Since taking office in 2008, I have also been an advocate for the redevelopment of the Allegheny Riverfront and for improved access to the river. I have helped to steer two community-driven plans—the Allegheny Riverfront Vision Plan and the Allegheny River Green Boulevard Plan. Supported by millions of dollars, these community-focused plans set high hopes and big visions for increasing public access to the river, maintaining the authenticity of the Strip District and Lawrenceville, and improving public transit connectivity along the corridor.

Over the last seven months, I have fought against the Buncher Company's proposed redevelopment of the Strip District. This plan forecloses present and future public and private investments in the area by ignoring what citizens and community leaders asked for in both riverfront plans. The Buncher plan creates an isolated, partially gated community in the Strip District, turns the historic Produce Terminal Building into a strip mall, and dedicates countless acres of riverfront real estate to surface parking.

Mayor Ravenstahl fully supports the Buncher plan, granting Buncher exclusive options and deals on the purchase price of both the Produce Terminal Build-

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**Veolia Water North America brings positive change to Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority**



Have you called customer service at the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA) lately?

If you have, you've noticed that you spent less time waiting on hold waiting for a customer representative, found PWSA more responsive to water main breaks, and experienced increas-

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ingly positive services from the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority.

Thanks to a partnership with Veolia Water North America, PWSA is improving its performance across the board. From July 2012 until as long as December 2013, Veolia will serve as PWSA's "Interim Executive Management Team," leading the Authority through major transformation. Veolia was hired by the PWSA Board through a request for proposals for interim management of the Authority.

Veolia has provided executive Jim Good to serve as PWSA's Interim Executive Manager for the duration of Veolia's time spent with the Authority.

Veolia's performance at the Authority will be evaluated through the use of Key Performance Indicators (KPI's). KPI's will measure improvements in the Authority's customer service, general safety practices, daily operations, financial stability, and other fields. The successful fulfillment of each set of KPI's will signal the Authority's progress in its mission to become the region's recognized leader in water and sewer provisions.

In 2013, PWSA and Veolia will announce initiatives to improve the Operational Excellence of the Authority.

New service revenues coupled with new savings will be identified and implemented over the course of the coming year.

### Council passes, Mayor signs Dowd's archiving legislation for City records



Councilman Dowd and the District 7 team found thousands of City records in the basement of 200 Ross Street, which houses the City Planning Department, Bureau of Building Inspection, and other City offices. Many of these documents date back to the early 20th century.

Have you ever wondered what happens to the thousands of maps, plans, memos, letters, and other records that have been produced by each City department?

This fall, Councilman Dowd drafted legislation creating the City's first Commission on City Archives, which will be responsible for the management of historic City records. The Commission will establish procedures for City departments to store and manage records.

The City of Pittsburgh did not have an

established program for the management of historic records before Councilman Dowd's legislation. Council approved the legislation in a unanimous vote. In early October of 2012, the Mayor officially signed the bill into law.

### Dowd joins Morningside, Highland Park neighbors to create field improvement plan

Neighbors in Morningside and Highland Park are working to create a plan to improve Heth's Playground and Natoli Field. In what started with constituent requests to the District 7 office over two years ago, Councilman Dowd has been working with community groups, residents, athletic associations, and community leaders to help develop a master plan for improving both fields. Field improvements will provide for better field maintenance, increased parking availability, and additional storage space.



Natoli Field in Morningside is the focus of a field improvement master planning process facilitated through community groups, residents, athletic associations, State Representative Dom Costa, and Councilman Dowd.

### Dowd, Lawrenceville groups enforce community process for liquor licenses

With its rich history, beautiful architecture, and thriving business and nightlife district, Lawrenceville has fast become one of Pittsburgh's redevelopment success stories. With this, however, comes the need to protect the community and ensure sustainable growth.

Councilman Dowd has continued his work with Lawrenceville United and the Lawrenceville Corporation, helping to ensure that Lawrenceville businesses attempting to obtain liquor licenses work closely with community groups and residents. Each business wishing to hold a liquor license in Lawrenceville must engage stakeholders

and residents while also participating in meetings with the public. Business owners are asked to agree to a conditional liquor license agreement containing restrictions to possible problem activities at the business.

By restricting practices related to negative nightlife behavior, Lawrenceville's business district is able to undergo sustainable growth while protecting the quality of life of residents. Creating a balance between growth and quality of life is central to Lawrenceville's continued progress. Over the coming year, Councilman Dowd will advocate for changes in state law regarding liquor licenses.

### Dowd introduces natural gas drilling legislation to protect City residents, environment

In September, Councilman Dowd introduced a comprehensive package of zoning legislation that will create protections for Pittsburgh residents by regulating and restricting natural gas drilling in the City of Pittsburgh for the first time.

The proposed legislation would allow for the creation of specially zoned Mineral Extraction Districts that would set requirements for minimum site acreage, mandatory public hearings, and the approval of both City Council and the City of Pittsburgh Planning Commission.

In 2010, City Council passed a "ban" on natural gas drilling that, while unenforceable, served as a temporary political statement. Dowd's legislation will not replace the current ban, but will instead provide enforceable protection for City residents. Councilman Dowd's legislation utilizes the right of municipalities to regulate land use through zoning.

This right of municipalities to regulate land use through zoning was upheld by the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court's July 2012 ruling on Act 13 and is now being considered by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. A decision from the Supreme Court is expected in early 2013.



Councilman Dowd's legislation would tightly regulate natural gas drilling in Pittsburgh, allowing for enforceable and sustainable protection for residents for years to come.



Councilman Dowd partnered with representatives from Comcast and the Stanton Heights Neighborhood Association to create preliminary plans for the creation of a community green space on Stanton Avenue in Stanton Heights.

### Council to Go: Talk with Councilman Dowd and the District 7 Team about your questions and concerns

Have you ever wanted to be able to talk with your elected representative about City government one-on-one or in a small group setting? If so, join Councilman Patrick Dowd for one of his monthly Council to Go meetings held throughout District 7.

Council to Go is a regularly scheduled mobile constituent services office where District 7 residents are welcome and encouraged to discuss neighborhood and City issues with Councilman Dowd.

Take a look below for information on regularly scheduled Council to Go meetings for 2013. To meet the needs of the wide group of residents living throughout the District, Councilman Dowd will also host rotating Council to Go meetings in additional locations throughout District 7. For up-to-date information about rotating Council to Go sessions, visit [District7.pittsburghpa.gov](http://District7.pittsburghpa.gov).

### Where to find Council to Go

**Caffe Mona**  
4200 Penn Avenue, 15224  
Mar. 7, June 6, Sept. 5, Dec. 5; 6-7pm

**Polish Hill Civic Association**  
3060 Brereton Street, 15219  
Jan. 9, April 10, July 10, Oct. 9; 7-8pm

**Union Project**  
801 North Negley Avenue 15206  
Feb. 7, May 2, Aug. 1, Nov. 7; 7-8pm



Councilman Dowd talks with constituents at a Highland Park Council to Go meeting. Council to Go makes it convenient and easy to make your voice heard in City government.