

WHEREAS, in 2009, the Initiative for Transgender Leadership (ITL) was founded by RT Peck, Jen Saffron, and Madeleine Hershey, dedicated community leaders who were affectionately called the Trifecta; and,

WHEREAS, ITL's mission is to positively affect community life by promoting the professional and leadership development of transgender youth; and,

WHEREAS, ITL began with the simple belief that transforming the life of one transgender youth can transform the world—ITL stands for nothing less than freedom of expression for each and every person; and,

WHEREAS, ITL exists in an ecosystem of other LGBTQ organizations working together for positive change in our community in collaboration with individuals and non-profits who support and train youth in leadership, employment, and life skills; and,

WHEREAS, people from all over the world have contributed individual donations, pledges, and support - while ITL received small grants from grassroots foundations, it's an organization primarily supported by individual contributions; and,

WHEREAS, RT, Jen, and Madeleine dedicated their lives to furthering human rights, and the existence and success of ITL is proof of that dedication; and,

WHEREAS, tragically, Madeleine Hershey died in her home on January 17, 2015. In her personal charter, Madeleine declared: "My purpose in life is to expose all beings to their own magnificence. The values at the heart of who I am are love, integrity, compassion, play." ITL is one of Madeleine's many legacies, and will serve as a daily reminder to those who loved her that she fulfilled her purpose in life.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby recognize Madeleine Hershey and the Initiative for Transgender Leadership for recognizing that one motivated young trans person can change the world through their creativity and dedication if provided with a welcoming and supportive place to work.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby declare February 17, 2015 to be "Madeleine Hershey Day" in the City of Pittsburgh.

Sponsored by Councilman Dan Gilman and Council President Bruce Kraus

Co-sponsored by Councilmembers Deb Gross, Darlene M. Harris, Theresa Kail-Smith, Natalia Rudiak, Corey O'Connor, R. Daniel Lavelle, and Rev. Ricky V. Burgess

Bruce Kraus
President of Council

Attest: Mary Beth Doheny
Clerk of Council

In Council, February 17, 2015