

WHEREAS, women entrepreneurs face significant obstacles, such as lack of access to capital and other support, when attempting to navigate the complex process of bringing their dream of an online or brick-and-mortar business to fruition and these obstacles are magnified solely because of their gender; and,

WHEREAS, the 52,900 women-owned enterprises in the Pittsburgh region, an increase of over 8,000 new businesses in the last thirteen years, employ over 62,000 people and contribute to the city's vibrant and diverse economy; and,

WHEREAS, founded in Pittsburgh in 2011 by Emily Levenson and Kate Stoltzfus, Propelle is a networking and coaching organization whose mission is "to shine the light on the amazing work women entrepreneurs in the Pittsburgh region are doing, to foster a community of supportive and creative women, and to provide the tools and resources necessary to help women grow and evolve, both personally and professionally"; and,

WHEREAS, Propelle's in-person networking events and online members-only community provide the opportunity for female business owners to connect with other like-minded women, expand their personal and professional networks, and create valuable business partnerships; and,

WHEREAS, each year, Propelle hosts a cohort of female entrepreneurs and provides participants with the energy, focus, and accountability necessary to grow or start a business. The cohort meets monthly to develop strategies, collaborate on projects, and motivate one another to leave their comfort zones and reach their full potential; and,

WHEREAS, Kate and Emily have empowered numerous Pittsburgh women to create and expand their businesses and their programs have led to thriving enterprises, both online and in our city's business districts.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby recognize and applaud Kate Stoltzfus, Emily Levenson, and Propelle for their efforts in developing a supportive and prosperous community of female entrepreneurs in Pittsburgh; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby declare Monday, February 29th, 2016 to be "Propelle Leap 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 23, 2016