

WHEREAS, Carlow University is celebrating Women's History Month this year by hosting Jane Stapleton, a University of New Hampshire researcher who runs bystander intervention programs at colleges around the country and in Europe; and,

WHEREAS, bystander awareness is an evidence-based program that attempts to prevent sexual assaults from happening through an activist/collective/community culture of response; and,

WHEREAS, the goal of bystander awareness is to stop bad behavior before it crosses the line from drunken camaraderie to sexual assault; and,

WHEREAS, bystander awareness is a critical tool for both women and men; while the public discussion of sexual violence has primarily focused on physical and emotional violence to women, arrest for sexual assault can do irreparable harm to a young man for life as well; and

WHEREAS, Jane was prominently featured in the New York Times recently on the positive effects of Bystander Awareness; and,

WHEREAS, on Jan. 22 at a White House meeting on sexual violence, President Obama released a report that cited the need for intervention, including the quote “Bystanders must be taught and emboldened to step in and stop it;” and,

WHEREAS, the hope is that bystander programs will have the same impact on campus culture that the designated driver campaign has had in reducing drunken driving deaths.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby proclaim March 25, 2014 as “Bystander Awareness Day” in the City of Pittsburgh.

Sponsored by Councilman Dan Gilman

Co-sponsored by Council President Bruce Kraus, 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, March 25, 2014