

WHEREAS, the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust is hosting *UNLOADED*, a multimedia group show that explores historical and social issues surrounding the availability, use, and impact of guns in our culture; and,

WHEREAS, the exhibition opened at SPACE in the Cultural District on February 13 and is on view through April 26, with a closing reception during the April 24 Gallery Crawl; and,

WHEREAS, the works in *UNLOADED* consider age, gender, race, mental health, political affiliations, and philosophical stances as factors surrounding our attitudes and uses of guns, and reflect a number of perspectives—though none endorse the gun as a means to an end; and,

WHEREAS, *UNLOADED* is organized by Susanne Slavick, the Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Art at Carnegie Mellon University; and,

WHEREAS, for more than a decade, Slavick’s work as an artist—and more recently as a curator—has dealt with violence, primarily the violence of war and its aftermath. *UNLOADED* shifts the focus to violence on the home-front where guns play an enormous role in wounding the well-being of society, whether through the tragedies of domestic violence, suicide, or homicide; and,

WHEREAS, *UNLOADED* is a national exhibition that highlights not just a national problem, but also a huge local problem; gun violence in Pittsburgh and surrounding areas has experienced record highs the last couple of years. The exhibit’s goal is not to eliminate gun violence, but to open up a dialogue that can—coupled with the work of partners in the gun violence prevention arena and with other local and statewide supporters—make Pittsburgh and our world a safer place.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby recognize *UNLOADED* for its work to tackle the pervasive problem of gun violence through art and public discourse for residents not just in the City of Pittsburgh, but across the country; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby proclaim March 3, 2014, as “*UNLOADED* 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, March 3, 2015