

WHEREAS, children who are chronically absent from school perform worse and are at a higher risk of dropping out than children who regularly attend school; and,

WHEREAS, the United Way of Allegheny County is determined to reduce this problem through their adoption of the “Be There” campaign, which encourages peers and adults to ‘be there’ for kids and to encourage children to stay in school; and,

WHEREAS, the “Be There” campaign is a nation-wide multimedia and awareness campaign dedicated to and focused on getting parents and community members more involved in children’s education in order to help increase and maintain school attendance rates; and,

WHEREAS, educators and parents throughout the City of Pittsburgh have pledged their support for the “Be There” campaign; and,

WHEREAS, the efforts made by these parents, teachers, educators, and mentors have had lasting impacts on the lives and attendance records of Pittsburgh school children; and,

WHEREAS, the United Way of Allegheny County is holding an awards ceremony on May 29, 2014 to honor the following adults who have pledged to “be there” for our children—those who have made lasting contributions to the City of Pittsburgh’s youth through their tireless dedication and support:

Sarah Armenti, Pittsburgh Langley K-8
Dwayne Barker , Parent Volunteer at Pittsburgh King PreK-8
Debra Smallwood, Parent Volunteer at Brashear High School
Keith Lunsford, Parent Volunteer with The Pittsburgh Project
Alan Butera, MGR Foundation Volunteer
Detria Dixon, Homewood Children’s Village
Barbara Coffee, City of Pittsburgh Housing Authority
Amie Matson, A+ Schools
Helen Haines, Homewood YMCA and Afterschool Program coordinator
Wendy Etheridge Smith, Higher Achievement
Tanya Ashby, Pittsburgh Faison K-5
Jenifer Tyler, Pittsburgh Arlington 3-8
Christina Hills , Pittsburgh Colfax K-8
Monica Lamar, Pittsburgh Dilworth PreK-5
Danielle Leach, Pittsburgh Brashear High School
Kashif Henderson, Pittsburgh Brashear High School
Kirk Holbrook, A+ Schools
Nick Bordone , Milliones 6-12
Cedric Thomas, Macedonia FACE
Monica Tillman, Pittsburgh Arsenal 6-8
Lana Shafic, Pittsburgh Schiller 6-8
Robert Mungin, Pittsburgh Classical 6-8
Nena McDill, Pittsburgh South Brook 6-8
Adrienne Dudley, Pittsburgh South Hills 6-8
Kyle Soto , Tutor with Neighborhood Learning Alliance at Pittsburgh Sci-Tech Academy
Cyrene Bey, Propel Charter School
Alichia Parker, Malaika Learning Center
Jamie Seabrook, East End Cooperative Ministry
Charmaine Turner, Dance Instructor West End Community
Kelly Parker, School Bus Driver
Lora Bethea, Pittsburgh Manchester PreK-8
Leah Thill, PULSE Member Co-Founder Kincaid Community Garden, Member of Garfield Community Action Team

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby recognize United Way of Allegheny County and the “Be There” nominees for putting the needs and concerns of the City of Pittsburgh’s schoolchildren first and foremost in their lives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby declare May 29, 2014 to be “Be There 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, May 27, 2014

