

WHEREAS In 1983, during the height of the HIV/AIDS crisis in America, the United States Food and Drug Administration banned the donation of blood by gay and bisexual males; and,

WHEREAS Despite advancements in treatment, prevention, education and testing as well as the FDA's release of new research confirming that the risk of contracting HIV from a blood transfusion has since been reduced to one per two million units of blood donated, the policy remains unchanged today; and,

WHEREAS the American Medical Association opposes the lifetime ban on blood donations by gay males and urges the FDA to adopt a more rational approach by allowing gay and bisexual males to donate blood based on each individual's risk or level and not on one's sexual orientation alone; and,

WHEREAS the University of California-Los Angeles recently published research indicated that while a lift on the gay blood ban would have a modest impact on the nation's supply of blood, an increase in supply would have a significant impact during a natural disaster; and,

WHEREAS Last year, filmmaker Ryan James Yezak, whose documentary shed light on the discriminatory and antiquated ban on gay blood donation, used social media to organize the National Gay Blood Drive, in which heterosexual allies can donate blood in place of gay and bisexual friends; and,

WHEREAS This year, blood drives have been organized in thirty-seven cities nationwide, including Pittsburgh, during the weekend of July 11th-July 14th as a part of the second annual National Gay Blood Drive; and,

WHEREAS Pittsburgh's Gay Blood Drive is occurring at Studio Raw at 3185 Babcock Boulevard on Monday, July 14th from 1 pm-7pm; and,

WHEREAS Those interested in donating blood as a part of the National Gay Blood Drive can visit www.gayblooddrive.com to learn more about the initiative and to make an appointment for a blood donation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby recognize the organizers of the Pittsburgh Gay Blood Drive; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby declare July 14th, 2014 as "Gay Blood Drive 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, Ricky Burgess, Corey O'Connor, and R. Daniel Lavelle.

Bruce Kraus
President of Council

Attest: Mary Beth Doheny
Clerk of Council

In Council, May 6, 2014

