

February 14, 2017

Residents of the City of Pittsburgh:

In 2016, the Affordable Housing Task Force, co-chaired by Councilman Daniel Lavelle and Director of City Planning Ray Gastil, produced a report containing over 40 recommendations. This report was the result of countless hours of work by task force members informed by a public engagement process where hundreds of community members expressed to the City their most pressing housing priorities.

During the last six months, my administration has proudly worked with City Council and community stakeholders to move forward one of the more significant recommendations made by the Task Force, the creation of the Housing Opportunity Fund. However, there is much more work for us to do. We must not only expand the tools available to increase and preserve the housing opportunities available to low and moderate income residents, but increase the protections afforded to Pittsburgh's longtime residents across all of our neighborhoods. In order to advance these efforts, my administration is issuing a series of Executive Orders over the next two days based off the remaining Task Force recommendations.

Over the past year we have also worked with stakeholders to move forward major initiatives to reimagine what development in Pittsburgh can accomplish. From the equitable development work led by Neighborhood Allies, Urban Innovation 21, and the Urban Kind Institute with the support of PolicyLink, to advancing the p4 initiative with the Heinz Endowments by putting people and place front and center, the message is clear – "good enough" is not good enough anymore.

My administration is committed to creating a livable city for all. These Executive Orders are the next step in an ongoing process to address not only the challenges of today but to lay the foundation for an equitable Pittsburgh in the future. To do that, we will need the support of the whole City – residents, advocates, developers, financiers, nonprofits, and others must join together to implement local changes and speak with a unified voice in Harrisburg and Washington.

The success and perseverance of Pittsburgh, that is admired the world over, has always been rooted in our strong neighborhoods. With these Executive Orders, we will take an important step toward preserving and enhancing those neighborhoods for the next generation of Pittsburghers.

William Peduto
Mayor, City of Pittsburgh