



COUNCILMAN LAVELLE SPONSORS 'EQUITY AND INCLUSION' LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE



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Diamonte Walker, Director of Performance and Compliance at the URA; Shad Henderson, Director of Equity and Community Partnerships at Neighborhood Allies; Presley Gillespie, President of Neighborhood Allies; Councilman Ricky Burgess and Councilman Daniel Lavelle

On May 14, Councilmembers R. Daniel Lavelle and Rev. Ricky Burgess introduced legislation that requires City of Pittsburgh Departments and Department heads to embed equity and inclusive practices within their respective departments. The Councilmembers, on behalf of the Pittsburgh Black Elected Officials Coalition (PBEOC), had been working with Mayor Peduto and the Pittsburgh All-In Cities' Equitable Development Collaborative to look at best practices to align the PBEOC's Peace and Justice Initiative (P&JI) work with that of the Equitable Development Collaborative: The Path to an All-In Pittsburgh report.

The legislation consists of four components:

- A resolution declaring the City of Pittsburgh to be an "All-In" city
- An ordinance supplementing the Pittsburgh Code to add equity reporting requirements of Department Directors
- A Resolution establishing an Equity and Inclusion Implementation Team

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- An ordinance amending the Pittsburgh Zoning Code to require Affordable Housing Impact Statements

Councilman Lavelle expressed the importance of the legislative package functioning as a tool to help address the racial disparities that unfortunately create a tale of two cities in Pittsburgh. “The long standing racial disparities that continue to plague our city are the direct result of decades of structural racism, accompanied with both public and private policies that devalued the lives of black and brown people, thus leaving their communities in economic and social despair.”

With the introduction of the legislative package, the City is acknowledging that in order to move beyond the past and into a successful future, Pittsburgh must become equitable and just for all its citizenry. More specifically, Pittsburgh must become a city where people of color can thrive, and that requires an intentional focus on eliminating racial inequities and barriers, and making accountable and catalytic investments to assure that historically disenfranchised communities and lower-wealth residents directly benefit from our new and growing economy.

COUNCILMAN LAVELLE INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO COMBAT RACISM IN PITTSBURGH



In October of 2019, Council members R. Daniel Lavelle and Rev. Ricky Burgess introduced legislation to officially combat systemic racism in Pittsburgh. This legislation hopes to do this by:

- Declaring racism as a public health crisis
- Establishing an All-In Cities Policy Forum
- Creating an All-In Cities investment fund to be managed by the Poise Foundation

The Poise Foundation is the only African-American Foundation in Pittsburgh that focuses on assisting the region’s Black community in achieving self-sustaining practices, through strategic leadership, collective giving, grantmaking and advocacy.

By declaring racism as a public health crisis, the

resolution urges City stakeholders to take the necessary steps to address the issue.

Systemic racism has been found to be the cause of several detrimental effects on life quality for people of color. Those who experience racial discrimination are more likely to suffer from chronic diseases and premature death as well as a number of

other setbacks such as income inequality, educational disparities and others.

The resolution will establish an All-In Cities Policy Forum which will provide a framework to emphasize and implement more of All-In Pittsburgh’s recommendations from “Equitable Development: The Pathway to an All-In Pittsburgh.” This equitable development will require a focus on eliminating barriers and inequality dealing with racism.

Councilman Burgess and Lavelle agree and support Mayor Peduto’s OnePGH vision but would like to designate the funds to be overseen by the African-American community for the benefit of the community. This investment fund shall be used explicitly to further affordable mixed-income housing in African-American communities and investing in African-American owned businesses in Black communities.

GROUP VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM EXPANDED: VIOLENCE DOWN IN PITTSBURGH

In an effort to continue to curb violence, in 2019 the Group Violence Intervention Legislation was extended for a three year period, at a grand total of \$937,500. This marks the largest legislative investment in reducing gun violence in the history of the City of Pittsburgh. Reverend Glenn Grayson and the Center that Cares was granted the contract and will lead the charge of quelling inner city violence, and the retaliatory acts around it, along with his far reaching team, with members from Homewood, Garfield, Hazelwood, Northview Heights, Manchester, The West End, The Hill District, and Beltzhoover.

This team’s neighborhood diversity allows the program to touch almost all neighborhoods, and connects the team to the youth of each neighborhood, allowing them to intervene in what is often a long series of retaliations, and when possible, interrupt the violence before it even starts.

The Group Violence Intervention Program is proving successful when looking at the numbers. Since its inception in 2016 there has been a 36% reduction in non-fatal shooting incidents.

MANCHESTER HOPE VI REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE

In 2016, under the direction of Councilman Lavelle, the Housing Authority purchased the 86 rental homes and apartments in the Manchester neighborhood that were part of the 1990’s US Department of Housing and Urban Development project known as Hope VI. The intent was to rehab and redevelop the units that had fallen into disrepair under the previous management company, Pennrose Properties:

Phase I – 86 unit Rehabilitation

The Manchester Redevelopment includes the rehabilitation of 86 scattered site public housing units, currently owned by HACP, located in the Manchester neighborhood. HACP plans to submit a 4% Low Income Housing Tax Credit application in 2020 for funding to support the rehab improvements including,

URA PURCHASES CENTRE HELDMAN PLAZA

The Pittsburgh Urban Redevelopment Authority recently acquired the Hill District’s Centre Heldman Plaza, the site of the former Shop ‘n Save. Councilman Lavelle noted that the goal of the purchase is to obtain control of the site so that the community has a direct say in how it is redeveloped. Without public intervention, the property — which was in mortgage foreclosure — could have been sold to a private interest, giving the community little or no input in what happens on site.

Whether the real estate remains as a shopping center under URA ownership will be ultimately decided by the community. Situated at a prominent spot on Centre Avenue, any reuse must be of the highest and best value, and would have to be in line with the goals of the Hill District master plan and the vision cast for the redevelopment of the Centre Avenue corridor.



but not limited to, the repair and/or replacement of roofs, furnaces, water heaters, flooring, kitchen and bathroom cabinets and countertops, lighting, and exterior decks.

All of the units will remain affordable, and the current residents will not be displaced from the neighborhood.

Phase II – 55 unit New Construction

In a second phase, HACP plans to develop 45-55 additional affordable scattered site units in the Manchester neighborhood utilizing modular new construction for one and two bedroom stacked duplex units. HACP plans to acquire parcels currently owned by Manchester Citizens Corporation, the City, and the Urban Redevelopment Authority. HACP plans to submit funding applications in 2021 to support this development.

OAKLAND NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN



The City of Pittsburgh has begun a planning process with the Oakland community to create a 10 year community plan with a shared vision for Oakland's future and the projects and programs necessary to make that vision a reality. Once adopted by the Planning Commission, the Oakland Plan will become City policy and will guide public and private investments in the area. The plan area generally includes the neighborhoods of North Oakland, Central Oakland, South Oakland and West Oakland.

It is estimated that the planning process will take approximately 2 years to complete, focusing on the

topic areas of community, development, mobility and infrastructure. The initial stage kicked off in the fall of 2019, as a Steering Committee comprised of 30+ representatives from community organizations, local institutions, and government institutions was put together to guide the planning process as an advisory body. The Steering Committee has been meeting on a monthly basis since October 2019.

For more information on the Oakland Neighborhood Plan, please visit the Plan's website at: pittsburghpa.gov/dcp/oakland.

DOWNTOWN MOBILITY PLAN

The Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership will be leading the development of a mobility plan designed to increase navigation for those who travel through Downtown—whether for work, to visit or for living. The PDP will be working in partnership with the City of Pittsburgh, the Port Authority of Allegheny County, the Southwest Pennsylvania Commission, and Downtown stakeholders.

Currently, the kick-off survey has been launched through the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership website and the PDP also has plans to publish a series of surveys, public workshops, focus groups, and stakeholder committees in order to better gauge public opinion on the initiative. The current kick-off survey will be available until January 20, 2020 and queries individuals on how they usually get around Downtown Pittsburgh today and what would make it a better experience in the future.

The survey only takes about five minutes or less to complete and will help guide the development of the Pittsburgh Mobility Plan.

Optimizing the space in the geographically limited Central Business District is one of the main concerns of the project. By recognizing the emergence of new mobility technologies and building upon previous Downtown studies, planned roadway improvements, and projected land use changes—this will aid in creating comprehensive strategies for the safe and efficient movement of people, transit, bicycles, vehicles, freight, and other means of transport across Greater Downtown. The goal of the Plan is to account for these changes and build a strategy to transform the Downtown mobility network into a 21st century system prioritizing the movement of people and optimization of the public right-of-way.

LOWER HILL DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT

In October of 2019, the Urban Redevelopment Authority board voted to approve a term sheet (agreement) for the redevelopment of several parcels in the Lower Hill site.

In negotiating, Councilman Lavelle wanted to ensure the agreement would assist in advancing development in the Middle and Upper Hill as well. As a result, the agreement with the Penguins will advance a parking garage mixed-use development as well as housing with deeper and greater levels of affordability. The agreement will make 20% of the units available to residents at and below the 50% Area Median Income (AMI) level for 20 years. The housing will be developed with Intergen, a local minority development partner from the Hill District.

Furthermore, under the new agreement:

- The Penguins and their partners will capitalize the Greater Hill District Reinvestment Fund, worth approximately \$30-\$40 million. The Hill District community will be instrumental in determining the prioritized investments to be made by the Fund.
- The Penguins and their partners will provide space in the development for 29 years for the Catapult minority business incubation space and will further fund the program. Catapult is an entrepreneur-in-residence program that will allow Hill District businesses the opportunity to have space in the retail component of the Lower Hill.
- The Penguins and their partners will work with Partner4Work to locate a First Source center on the site and utilize intro to the trades programs to ensure Hill residents will be able to participate in job opportunities pre, during and post construction.
- The Penguins and their partners will pay to upgrade and modernize Ammon Recreation Center as well as the adjoining courts and fields.
- The Penguins and their partners will develop a computer lab space at Ammon Rec Center to allow for Rec2Tech programming.
- The Penguins and their partners will finish the Curtain Call project, preserving the cultural legacy of the Hill District and the importance of ensuring those stories are honored and remembered.

ROBERT E WILLIAMS & JEFFERSON REC CENTER REDEVELOPMENT UPDATES

The Robert E Williams shelter in the Hill District and the Jefferson Rec Center in the Northside are vital community assets slated for redevelopment by the City of Pittsburgh. As hubs of their respective communities, these amenities provide spaces for residents of all ages to convene for events, for play, and for various types of gatherings.



ed in July to take on the project, which envisions a complete rebuild of the shelter by increasing the current space by 1,000 square feet, provides for 2 assembly spaces indoors, and provides for an outdoor plaza and a rooftop that can be occupied.

The design process led by R3A is expected to last about 9 months. A series of

community meetings will be hosted throughout this process to update and obtain feedback from residents and stakeholders. Once completed, demolition and construction will begin thereafter, sometime in late Fall of 2020.

Robert E. Williams Park Shelter

In March of 2019, the City released a “Request for Proposals” (RFP) for the hiring of an architecture firm for the redevelopment of the shelter. Upon review of the submitted proposals, R3A was select-

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2020 DISTRICT 6 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The City's Budget for 2020 is separated into 2 categories: the Operating Budget, which covers day to day functions and municipal employee salaries, is \$608 million, and the Capital Budget, which covers specific projects such as infrastructure improvements, is \$108 million. Some highlights, impacting District 6, from the 2020 Capital Budgets include:

- Street upgrades: \$19 million
- Street paving: \$16.9 million for roughly 54 miles of paving
- Centre Ave revitalization: \$400,000
- Traffic calming infrastructure improvements, Centre & Dinwiddie: \$200,000
- Jefferson Rec Center redevelopment: \$950,000
- Granville Parklet upgrades: \$250,000
- Robert E Williams shelter redevelopment: \$300,000 (this is in addition to the \$1.1 million that has already been allocated from previous years)

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Jefferson Rec Center

As with the Robert E. Williams Shelter, Councilman Lavelle has secured a capital budget allocation for renovations of the Jefferson Rec building and its outdoor play area. In September of 2019, a community meeting was hosted on site to present 3 alternate proposals. Based on feedback from those present, the most popular proposal included a full basketball court, an upgraded playground area, and renovations to the rec center building. Improvements would also include Rec2Tech programming,



an initiative that gives children free access to computer labs and instruction on how to use technology to foster their creativity, solve real world problems, and build job ready skills.