

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, the Islamic Center of Pittsburgh is hosting its annual interfaith banquet and Humanity Day on Sunday, July 13, 2014; this event is held each year during the month of Ramadan, a time when friends and neighbors of all faiths can come together and celebrate members of the community who are strengthening the bonds of humanity; and

**WHEREAS**, the Islamic Center of Pittsburgh has a mission to shape the American-Muslim identity by educating, empowering, and uniting Pittsburgh's dynamic and diverse community; the Center provides quality religious, educational, and social services in a culturally respectful environment; and

**WHEREAS**, this year, the Center has chosen to honor Father Thomas M. Hart for his work to develop respect and mutual understanding of different faiths and culture traditions; Father Hart became an ordained priest in 1988 and became a member of the St. Vincent College faculty in 1993; he served as the Chair of the Religious Studies/Theology Department from 1997-2007; he also spent time teaching in the Religious Studies Department at West Virginia University; and

**WHEREAS**, Father Hart is a frequent visitor to the Islamic Center of Pittsburgh for tours and lectures with his students; he has published numerous articles devoted to the intersection between academic study and spiritual application; and

**WHEREAS**, Allegheny County is home to a very diverse population which allows for different viewpoints and ways of life to be expressed; it is important for us to learn from one another and we are grateful for Father Hart's work in building understanding throughout our community.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim July 13, 2014 as "Humanity Day" in Allegheny County and thank Father Hart for his contributions to mutual respect and understanding.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 13<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2014.

*Rich Fitzgerald*

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