

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Proclamation

WHEREAS, *Laxmi has been chosen as a recipient of the prestigious Secretary of State's Award for International Women of Courage; and*

WHEREAS, *this recognition of women around the globe who have shown exceptional courage and leadership in advocating for women's rights and empowerment, often at great personal risk, is an important way to honor the heroic work done to advance freedom, equality, opportunity and dignity for all; and*

WHEREAS, *established in 2007, the annual Secretary of State's International Women of Courage Award, allows the United States to honor the endeavors of extraordinary women worldwide who are playing transformative roles in their societies; this year is the 103rd anniversary of International Women's Day and we are proud to recognize the work of this year's incredible honorees and many other women around the globe; and*

WHEREAS, *Laxmi is a tireless campaigner against acid attacks, a common type of gender-based violence in her home country; when she was only 16, Laxmi was attacked in this manner and chose not to hide, but rather made repeated appearances on television, gathered 27,000 signatures for a petition to curb acid sales, and took her cause to the Indian Supreme Court; because of Laxmi's advocacy, the Indian central and state governments must regulate the sale of acid and states must pay \$5,000 to victims for immediate medical needs; and*

WHEREAS, *the dedication Laxmi has displayed is appreciated, her work is commended, her bravery is revered, and her leadership is admired; she has improved our world by the work she has done, and we are grateful.*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby thank and commend Laxmi for her work to promote women's rights and for her resourcefulness and willingness to sacrifice for others.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 7th day of March, 2014.

Rich Fitzgerald

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