

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the third full week of November is recognized as the first ever Smoking Cessation Awareness Week, in which the Allegheny County Health Department and Tobacco Free Allegheny have joined forces to spread awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco use as well as secondhand smoke exposure, and deliver information about smoking cessation to community members; and

WHEREAS, compared to 18.4% of Pennsylvania residents, 23% of adult Allegheny County residents smoke; 8.7% of Allegheny County adolescents have smoked in the past thirty days; in the United States smoking equates to roughly 1,300 deaths from smoking-related illnesses; secondhand smoke causes an estimated 41,000 deaths each year among adults in the United States; additionally, on average, it takes an individual 5-7 times to successfully quit tobacco use; and

WHEREAS, this inaugural event, "Allegheny Quits for Life: Smoking Cessation Awareness Week," aims to educate the public and host events, as well as provide residents with various cessation resources to effectively stop tobacco use; and

WHEREAS, the first event of the weeklong awareness program will be "Merengue Monday," held on November 16th in the Courtyard of the Allegheny County Courthouse; this energizing event will be hosted by the Pittsburgh Mercy Health System's Dancing Classrooms, whose mission is to build positive social awareness, confidence, and self-esteem in children through the practice of social dance and curriculum-based teaching; and

WHEREAS, Allegheny County is proud to partner with Tobacco Free Allegheny on this important campaign, and we encourage all residents to take advantage of the events and resources offered during this week.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, along with Council Member Tom Baker, by virtue of the authority vested in us, do hereby proclaim November 15-21, 2015 as "Allegheny Quits for Life: Smoking Cessation Awareness Week" in Allegheny County.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 15th day of November, 2015.

Rich Fitzgerald

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