

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

**RICH FITZGERALD  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

## *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, *The Honorable K. Leroy Irvis is being honored posthumously with the Spirit of King Award; this award recognizes the lifetime achievements of local citizens who pursue human rights and equality in the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and*

**WHEREAS**, *born in Saugerties, New York, Speaker Irvis credited his parents and siblings with instilling in him an appreciation for education; he graduated summa cum laude from New York State Teachers College and earned his master's degree from the University of New York at Albany; Speaker Irvis went on to attain a juris doctorate degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law; and*

**WHEREAS**, *Speaker Irvis was appointed Assistant District Attorney for Allegheny County, a position he held for six years; he was elected to represent the 19<sup>th</sup> legislative district of Pennsylvania in 1958, and was re-elected to this seat for fifteen consecutive terms; while in office, he became the first African-American elected to a leadership position when he was chosen as Democratic Caucus Chairman; in 1977, he was unanimously elected to serve as Speaker of the House; and*

**WHEREAS**, *Speaker Irvis was also selected as a delegate to the Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention, the Democratic National Convention, and as a member of the Democratic National Committee; in addition to his involvement in government and politics, Speaker Irvis was a devoted wood sculptor, painter, and published poet, and he actively participated in and supported the arts; and*

**WHEREAS**, *Allegheny County is honored to have had Speaker K. Leroy Irvis as a resident, leader, and inspiration to many for his dedication to civil rights activism in our community; we thank his family for sharing him with us for all of these years.*

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** *that I, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby recognize Speaker K. Leroy Irvis as the Spirit of King Award recipient.*

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, *I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 15<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2015.*

*Rich Fitzgerald*

Rich Fitzgerald