

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

## *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, *Stop the Violence – Pittsburgh* is hosting a Day of Recognition on June 14, 2015 for local pioneers and advocates; this year, the organization has chosen to honor Martin R. Delany, Bethel AME Church, and Charles Avery; and

**WHEREAS**, the “Pittsburgh Pioneers” program is being held in conjunction with the organization’s Juneteenth/Community Awareness Day program in Pittsburgh’s Market Square and will also include the “Gone But Not Forgotten” program; and

**WHEREAS**, Martin R. Delany was an abolitionist, doctor, writer, publisher and civil rights leader; he was one of the first three African-Americans admitted to Harvard Medical School and treated patients during the cholera epidemics of 1833 and 1854 in Pittsburgh; he met with President Lincoln and was the first African-American field officer in the U.S. Army during the Civil War; and

**WHEREAS**, for more than 200 years, the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church and its parishioners have profoundly influenced African-American history in Western Pennsylvania; the church was the first African-American congregation in the western part of the Commonwealth and also established the first School for Black Children in Pennsylvania; and

**WHEREAS**, Charles Avery was a Caucasian abolitionist who, while on buying trips to the South, was drawn to the plight of the slaves; joining the abolitionist forces, he aided the escape of slaves from the South to Canada in the underground railroad; Mr. Avery is also the founder of Avery College, the first secondary school before the Civil War exclusively for the education of Black youth.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby commend *Stop the Violence – Pittsburgh* for recognizing and remembering these important individuals and organization from our local history.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 14<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2015.

*Rich Fitzgerald*

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