

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

## *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Dorothy I. Height 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**, Ms. Height is a graduate of Rankin High School and upon graduation was accepted into Barnard College in 1929; however, upon arriving at the school she was denied entry as the college had strict policy to only accept two African American students per year; she went on to earn her undergraduate and master's degrees from New York University; she also studied at Columbia University and the New York School of Social Work; and

**WHEREAS**, described by President Obama as the "Godmother of the American Civil Rights Movement," Ms. Height fought for African American and women's rights as the President of the National Council of Negro Women; she helped organize the March on Washington in 1963 as well as "Wednesdays in Mississippi," a series of regular meetings that brought together African American and white women; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Height has received the Presidential Citizens Medal, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Congressional Gold Medal, the Spingarn Medal from the NAACP and the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Freedom from Want Award; and

**WHEREAS**, Allegheny County is honored have been the location where Ms. Height grew up and spent her formative years; she was an inspiration to many for her dedication to civil rights activism and it is certainly appropriate that she be honored in this manner.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby recognize Ms. Dorothy I. Height 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 14th day of January, 2016.

*Rich Fitzgerald*

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