

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Mr. August Wilson 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, Mr. Wilson, born as Frederick August Kittle in Pittsburgh's Hill District neighborhood, attended Central Catholic High School where he was the only African-American in his class; after receiving threats and suffering abuse, Mr. Wilson enrolled at Connelly Vocational High School, and eventually went to Gladstone High School; at the age of 15, he went on to pursue an independent education at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh to earn his diploma; and

WHEREAS, in 1979, Mr. Wilson wrote his first notable play, Jitney, for which he earned a fellowship at the Minneapolis Playwright Center; he went on to write many award-winning plays, including: Fences, The Piano Lesson, Ma Rainey's Black Bottom, and Joe Turner's Come and Gone; his plays, including the well-known Pittsburgh Cycle, were often set in Pittsburgh and many people he had observed in his neighborhood were inspiration for characters; and

WHEREAS, the childhood home of Mr. Wilson at 1727 Bedford Avenue was declared an historic landmark by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on May 30, 2007; his legacy is also seen in the names of the August Wilson Center in Pittsburgh and the August Wilson Theatre in New York City; and

WHEREAS, Allegheny County is honored to have had Mr. Wilson as a resident, leader, and inspiration to many for his dedication to civil rights activism in our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby recognize Mr. August Wilson as the Spirit of King Lifetime Achievement Award recipient.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 16th day of January, 2014.

Rich Fitzgerald

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