

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Proclamation

WHEREAS, KDKA, the world's first commercial station, began operating on November 2, 1920 and is celebrating its 95th anniversary this year; and

WHEREAS, in 1920, Westinghouse engineer Frank Conrad had already been experimenting with radio for years, and began broadcasting music over the airwaves; these broadcasts became so popular that stores quickly began selling wireless devices that could receive Mr. Conrad's signal; and

WHEREAS, in October of 1920, Westinghouse petitioned the Department of Commerce for the nation's first commercial broadcasting license; on November 2, KDKA went on the air at 8:00 p.m. and began transmitting updates on the presidential election returns; and

WHEREAS, Harold Arlin, a Westinghouse foreman, became KDKA's signature voice in January 1921; he would read news headlines and community-service bulletins, played music, and commented between songs; a few months later Mr. Arlin decided to try something new, and went to Forbes Field on August 5, 1921 armed with a hand-held telephone connected to a transmitter in a box behind home plate; fans at home, as well as those at the park, enjoyed the game as he recorded a win with the Pirates beating the Phillies that day, 8-5; and

WHEREAS, KDKA radio has been a part of Western Pennsylvania, and the world, for the past 95 years; the market may have expanded, and new voices are heard on the radio, but the same dedication and commitment to informing the public of news, sports, commentary, and special events has not changed; we are proud to have KDKA in Allegheny County and for its loyalty to our region.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby congratulate KDKA on this exciting 95th anniversary and wish all involved many more successful years to come!

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 3rd day of November, 2015.

Rich Fitzgerald

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