

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Proclamation

WHEREAS, September 9 is recognized as National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Day and is a time to bring understanding and knowledge to the health risks of women consuming alcohol while pregnant; and

WHEREAS, the term “fetal alcohol spectrum disorder” is an umbrella term that describes the range of effects that can occur in a baby whose mother drank alcohol during pregnancy; fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) is the most involved condition along the spectrum; and

WHEREAS, prenatal alcohol exposure is the leading preventable cause of birth defects and intellectual and developmental disabilities; the exact number of people who have FASD is unknown, but it is estimated that about 40,000 babies are born with effects of prenatal alcohol exposure annually; and

WHEREAS, any woman is at risk of having a child with an FASD if she drinks alcohol during pregnancy; alcohol can harm an embryo or fetus at any time, even before a woman knows she is pregnant; 7.6 percent of pregnant women report drinking alcohol in the past 30 days; and

WHEREAS, about half of all pregnancies are unplanned, contributing to late entry into prenatal care and presenting a barrier to optimal pregnancy management, particularly during the crucial early weeks of embryonic development; Allegheny County is committed to supporting healthy pregnancies, and offers a number of assistance programs through the Health Department and Department of Human Services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim September 9, 2015 as “National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Day” in Allegheny County.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 9th day of September, 2015.

Rich Fitzgerald

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