

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

## *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Nadia Sharmeen has been chosen as a recipient of the prestigious Secretary of State's Award for International Women of Courage; and

**WHEREAS**, this recognition of women around the globe who have shown exceptional courage and leadership in advocating for women's rights and empowerment, often at great personal risk, is an important way to honor the heroic work done to advance freedom, equality, opportunity and dignity for all; and

**WHEREAS**, established in 2007, the annual Secretary of State's International Women of Courage Award allows the United States to honor the endeavors of extraordinary women worldwide who are playing transformative roles in their societies; this year is the 104<sup>th</sup> anniversary of International Women's Day and we are proud to recognize the work of this year's incredible honorees and many other women around the globe; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Sharmeen is a dedicated journalist and staunch women's rights advocate in Bangladesh; as a crime reporter for the Bangladesh press corps, she was assigned to cover a massive rally whose attendees called for revoking Bangladesh's women's development policy; while at the rally, she was harassed, and repeatedly beaten, kicked, and thrown to the ground by 50 to 60 men; her employer denied sending her on assignment, refused to cover her medical expenses, and eventually forced her to resign; today, Ms. Sharmeen works for another TV station as a crime reporter where she challenges social forces that oppose gender norms; and

**WHEREAS**, the dedication Ms. Sharmeen has displayed is appreciated, her work is commended, her bravery is revered, and her leadership is admired; she has improved our world by the work she has done, and we are grateful.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby thank and commend Ms. Sharmeen for her work to promote women's rights and for her resourcefulness and willingness to sacrifice for others.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2015.

*Rich Fitzgerald*

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