



Proclamation

WHEREAS, culminating with the Countdown to Midnight and raising of the Future of Pittsburgh Ball, First Night Pittsburgh is a six-hour celebration that sprawls downtown's renowned 14-block Cultural District inside theaters, galleries, and unique spaces as well as along city streets on outdoor performance stages; and

WHEREAS, acclaimed national artists and Pittsburgh's vibrant artist community ring in the new year for revelers with live music, dance, theater, visual arts, comedy, magic, kids' activities, and a signature parade along with two Zambelli Fireworks displays at 6 p.m. and midnight; admission button prices remain among the most affordable in the nation; and

WHEREAS, one of the newest features of the First Night Pittsburgh celebration is the addition of the Williams SING-OFF Competition; this year's competition invites singers in grades 6-12 to submit video auditions that will be evaluated by Pittsburgh native Peter Matthew Smith, who will star as King George in the National Tour of Hamilton, opening in Pittsburgh on January 1, 2019; this year's winner will perform live on New Year's Eve, plus earn a \$500 cash prize and \$1,000 school music department donation; and

WHEREAS, the centerpiece of the celebration – the Future of Pittsburgh Ball – debuted as 2006 became 2007 and was selected as something that could provide the same "energy and enthusiasm of New York City's Times Square"; the environmentally friendly ball rises with the countdown, reflecting a region that is also on the rise, and reaches its peak more than 70 feet up, putting our eyes in the exact right spot for the fireworks; and

WHEREAS, we are grateful to the organizers and supporters of Highmark First Night Pittsburgh; events like these contribute to our economy, support our businesses, improve the quality of life for our residents, and add to our community's vibrancy and energy; it's hard to believe that this year's event marks the 25th annual celebration and the 16th year as a production of the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, County Executive Rich Fitzgerald and City of Pittsburgh Mayor William Peduto, by virtue of the authority vested in us, do hereby proclaim December 31, 2018 as "Highmark First Night Silver Jubilee Day" in Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh.

FURTHERMORE, we do hereby encourage residents to celebrate First Night Pittsburgh 2019 and 25 years of this tremendous New Year's Eve event with friends and neighbors.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny and the Seal of the City of Pittsburgh to be affixed this 3rd day of December, 2018.

Rich Fitzgerald

RICH FITZGERALD
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

William Peduto

WILLIAM PEDUTO, MAYOR
CITY OF PITTSBURGH