



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Township of Wilkins Designated as Second *Live Well Allegheny* Community

PITTSBURGH – Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, Council Vice President and District 7 Representative Nicholas Futules, and Dr. Karen Hacker, Director of the Allegheny County Health Department, joined Township of Wilkins officials today as the township was formally designated as the second *Live Well Allegheny* community.

“One of the main goals of the *Live Well Allegheny* campaign has been to engage all 130 municipalities, and the Township of Wilkins has stepped up to the plate,” said County Executive Fitzgerald. “We are grateful that the Commissioners here have embraced this campaign and partnered with us in committing to promoting healthy, active living. Like the county, Wilkins has embraced a holistic approach to wellness and intends to incorporate financial empowerment and food security into their campaign.”

Live Well Allegheny was launched in January as a comprehensive, innovative strategy on wellness that embraces a broad concept of living well to include physical health, mental wellness, personal and community safety, prevention and preparedness, and much more. The effort is being led by the Board of Health and Health Department Director Dr. Karen Hacker.

“The Wilkins officials have set a standard for the other municipalities in our County,” said Council Vice President Futules. “President Martinelli, Vice President Costa, and Commissioners Criner, Boyd, and Wells are leading by example by embracing the *Live Well Allegheny* campaign and goals. By making this announcement during its Health Fair, the township has made it clear that it welcomes a style of healthy living that will benefit its residents and employees for years to come.”

The Township of Wilkins actively promotes a voluntary wellness campaign for all township employees; promotes smoke-free buildings, perimeters and playgrounds; and is an active participant in the Tobacco Free Allegheny “Young Lungs at Play” program. Its officials have also sponsored a Farmer’s Market, sponsored an annual 5K run/walk and recently completed a new walking trail at Lions Park.

“Living well is an expansive concept that incorporates more than just physical health and exercise, as Wilkins has recognized,” said Health Department Director Dr. Hacker. “As a *Live Well Allegheny* community, the township is addressing the main behaviors that increase risk for the leading chronic diseases including smoking, physical inactivity and poor nutrition.”

The *Live Well Allegheny Community* designation was made at the Township’s Community Center as part of its Employee Health Fair, sponsored by the Township of Wilkins and neighboring Churchill Borough. The event was attended by employees and employee families, as well as municipal appointed and elected officials.

“We are very proud that the Township of Wilkins is the second municipality to be designated as a *Live Well Allegheny* Community. We take great pride in what we have already done to improve the health of our residents,” said Sylvia Martinelli, President of the Board of Commissioners. “Wilkins is a

predominating residential community and we do all that we can to ensure our municipality has ample green space, sports fields, pavilions for picnicking and walking trails. We look forward to the opportunity to partner with the *Live Well Allegheny* campaign to identify other areas.”

The Township of Wilkins is located in the eastern part of Allegheny County. Consisting of a total area of 2.6 square miles, the first class township is primarily residential, but also contains three business areas and a light industrial area as well. Approximately 6,300 people call Wilkins home.

For more information on the *Live Well Allegheny* campaign, including how to become a *Live Well Allegheny* community, visit www.LiveWellAllegheny.com.

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