



## 2018 Resolutions

### Resolution 18-01

To hear and act on the report of the Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee recommends the Congress to elect the following officers:

To elect as chair for a term of one year.

JR Henry, Mayor, Borough of West View.

To elect as vice chair for a term of one year.

Brittany Reno, Council President, Borough of Sharpsburg.

To re-elect as secretary/treasurer for a term of one year.

Mary Ellen Ramage, Manager, Borough of Etna.

To re-elect as the manager representative for a term of one year.

Steve Beuter, Manager, Borough of Carnegie.

To appoint as immediate past chair for a term of one year.

Marita Garrett, Mayor, Wilkesburg Borough.

To re-elect as the Allegheny County representative for a term of one year.

Rich Fitzgerald, County Executive, Allegheny County.

To re-elect as the representative of the Mayor's Office of the City of Pittsburgh for a term of one year.

William Peduto, Mayor, City of Pittsburgh.

### Resolution 18-02

WHEREAS the Borough of Blawnox and the City of Duquesne have requested membership in CONNECT; and

WHEREAS the Borough of Blawnox and the City of Duquesne have met the criteria set in the "Policy on inviting new municipalities to join the Congress of Neighboring Communities" that was accepted by the CONNECT Executive Committee in February of 2015.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough of Blawnox and the City of Duquesne are accepted as member municipalities by the Congress of Neighboring Communities.

### Resolution 18-03

WHEREAS the Local Government Academy's Newly Elected Officials Course (NEOC) provides in-depth instruction for local officials immediately after the general election; and

WHEREAS the NEOC combines both the legal and technical aspects of governing with programs designed to improve policy-making abilities; and

WHEREAS completion of the NEOC has been shown to orient new officials more quickly to public office, reducing “on-the-job training” time; and

WHEREAS the success of the region is dependent on the success of the local government officials that serve Allegheny County’s municipalities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT endorses the NEOC.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CONNECT calls on its member municipalities to recommend and provide financial support for the completion of the NEOC for all newly elected officials.

#### **Resolution 18-04**

WHEREAS in 2017 CONNECT passed Resolution 17-06 committing to advancing Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) in CONNECT municipalities in partnership with the Port Authority of Allegheny County; and

WHEREAS in September of 2017, the Richard King Mellon Foundation and the Port Authority committed funding to assist CONNECT in a defined effort to advance TOD; and

WHEREAS CONNECT and the Port Authority have collaboratively convened a TOD Working Group, defined a scope of work, and selected and contracted with a skilled consultant group, Dover, Kohl and Partners.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT commits to engaging in an 18-month process with Dover, Kohl and Partners, the Port Authority, and 11 participating member municipalities to advance TOD.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CONNECT will share best practices and lessons learned with the broader CONNECT community and interested municipalities within Allegheny County, assist in the building of relationships between municipalities and the developer community, and continue to serve as a convener and advocate for the establishment of effective TOD that will benefit the region.

#### **Resolution 18-05**

WHEREAS in 2017 CONNECT passed Resolution 17-08, committing to addressing the opioid epidemic, as the epidemic had and continues to have a devastating effect on all CONNECT communities; and

WHEREAS CONNECT has been working to address the epidemic through its Health Working Group in partnership with Allegheny County Health Department, Allegheny County Department of Human Services, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and UPMC’s Center for Emergency Medicine; and

WHEREAS foundation funding was secured to support a new staff position at the Allegheny County Health Department that would work directly with CONNECT communities to support efforts to combat the opioid epidemic.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT commits to dedicating staff and member time, and available resources to engage with and manage this position to ensure that the scope of work and initiatives piloted: address the priorities of CONNECT municipalities, and establish a comprehensive approach to reducing overdose deaths and addiction.

#### **Resolution 18-06**

WHEREAS the opioid epidemic continues to have a devastating effect on CONNECT communities; and

WHEREAS municipal representatives within CONNECT believe that first responders are responsible to protect and serve residents within their jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS the drug naloxone (Narcan) is designed to rapidly reverse opioid overdose and is available to emergency responders throughout Allegheny County; and

WHEREAS a person who has overdosed will not have the opportunity to receive treatment or recover from addiction if they are not revived.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT calls on all first responders (police, emergency medical services and fire) to carry and utilize Narcan in all medically appropriate situations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CONNECT commits to serving as a conduit between agencies, municipalities and organizations in need of Narcan and training with available Narcan, educational resources and topical expertise.

### **Resolution 18-07**

WHEREAS many CONNECT municipalities rely on the important public safety services provided by volunteer fire departments; and

WHEREAS the number of volunteer firefighters across the commonwealth of Pennsylvania has dramatically declined from more than 300,000 in 1976 to less than 50,000 today; and

WHEREAS this decrease is expected to continue, creating a critical shortage of volunteer firefighters; and

WHEREAS a critical shortage of volunteer firefighters may result in a fire department's inability to respond, or create significant delays in emergency response times to critical incidents; and

WHEREAS municipalities would face major financial challenges if required to identify, implement and fund alternative non-volunteer models in order to provide residents with around-the-clock firefighting and other life-saving services.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT will convene an Emergency Response Working Group to assess the impending crisis and develop recommendations designed to minimize the potentially devastating consequences of a critical shortage of volunteer firefighters.

### **Resolution 18-08**

WHEREAS gun violence is an issue that affects many CONNECT municipalities; and

WHEREAS gun violence has been identified as a significant public health and safety concern by a number of CONNECT member municipalities; and

WHEREAS municipalities are seeking effective measures to address and reduce gun violence and affiliated community trauma; and

WHEREAS in 2016 the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) created the Office of Violence Prevention that seeks to use data and research to design, implement and evaluate prevention strategies and programs.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT will establish a working group to: review available data on gun violence, work collaboratively with partner agencies including ACHD and others, conduct an audit of current efforts to address gun violence, and recommend appropriate and effective actions for CONNECT municipalities to consider for their respective communities.

## **Resolution 18-09**

WHEREAS Allegheny County lost 10,148 acres of its tree canopy between 2010 and 2015; and

WHEREAS CONNECT communities, which account for 19% of the County's land area, lost a combined 3,676 acres of tree canopy between 2010 and 2015 accounting for 33% of the County loss; and

WHEREAS trees are vital to the health and wellbeing of communities and residents and have a vast number of benefits including: reducing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere; producing oxygen and reducing air pollutants; reducing stormwater volume and speed; increasing property values; contributing to human health and longevity; and, improving children's development and ability to learn; and

WHEREAS municipalities have the power to pass tree ordinances that can ensure the protection and preservation of their municipal tree canopy by: establishing shade tree commissions; setting guidelines for pruning and maintenance of trees and shrubs; governing tree removal; establishing a replacement program; including best practices in land use and development policies; and, codifying other tree-related practices.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT calls on its member municipalities to pass ordinances intended to preserve and maintain its tree canopy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CONNECT will work collaboratively with partner organizations including Tree Pittsburgh to develop and share model tree ordinances and identify available resources for communities that are interested in taking action to preserve and maintain their tree canopy.

## **Resolution 18-10**

WHEREAS CONNECT's municipal members—managers and elected official—serve the needs of their residents; and

WHEREAS residents often look to their municipal representatives to aid them in a wide range of issues that go beyond the typical scope of municipal responsibility including but not limited to issues of: immigration and status, utility and rental assistance, legal aid, elder care, mental health services and addiction resources; and

WHEREAS local government representatives may not be adequately connected to the vast network of human service providers and available resources that could benefit residents.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT commits to working with the Allegheny County Department of Human Services, the Allegheny County Health Department, the United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania, BigBurgh.com and other partners to assist municipal representatives in navigating the network of human service providers in order to have the ability to promptly connect residents seeking assistance with available resources.