

Resolutions for Fourth CONNECT Congress (June 14, 2012)

Resolution 12-01 **ADOPTED 6.14.2012**

A Resolution to amend Resolution 11-01.

BE IT RESOLVED that Section 1 be repealed and replaced with the following:

A new Ex-Officio Officer position is to be created and filled by (1) the mayor of the City of Pittsburgh or (2) the Chair of the Committee of Intergovernmental Affairs for terms of office when no elected officer is a representative of the City of Pittsburgh.

Resolution 11-01 originally read as follows:

“BE IT RESOLVED that the Nomination Committee recommends the following structure regarding Officer positions:

- 1- A new Ex-Officio Officer position is to be created and filled by the mayor of the City of Pittsburgh or the Chair of the Committee of Intergovernmental Affairs. This position will be a non-voting position when a representative from the City of Pittsburgh is serving as another officer.*

- 2- Elected officials may be nominated and serve in positions of Chair, First Vice Chair and Second Vice Chair and Secretary/Treasurer and appointed officials may be nominated and serve in the Secretary/Treasurer position.”*

Resolution 12-02 **ADOPTED 6.14.2012**

The Nominating Committee recommends the Congress elect the following officers:

Resolution 12-02A

To elect as chair for a term of one year.

The Nominating Committee recommends Daniel DeMarco.

Resolution 12-02B

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

The Nominating Committee recommends Kathy Coder.

Resolution 12-02C

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

The Nominating Committee recommends Patrick Dowd.

Resolution 12-02D

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

The Nominating Committee recommends Marcia Taylor.

Resolution 12-02E

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

The Nominating Committee recommends Patricia Schaefer.

Resolution 12-03 ADOPTED 6.14.2012

WHEREAS CONNECT passed Resolutions 11-10 and 11-11, recognizing the value of a model framework for intergovernmental agreements as a resource for CONNECT municipalities and resolved that the Solicitor Working Group would develop such a framework; and

WHEREAS the Solicitor Working Group has drafted a framework intergovernmental agreement to assist the CONNECT municipalities in formalizing the terms of cooperative arrangements in an effective and expeditious manner; and

WHEREAS the framework developed is a basic model to be utilized as a resource, but use of the framework cannot be mandated and each contractual arrangement requires unique considerations; and

WHEREAS the basic model agreement is intended to serve as a guide for municipalities to form agreements consistent with the Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Cooperation Law, but that the framework developed does not constitute legal advice from any individual attorney or the Solicitor Working Group as a whole.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT accepts the framework intergovernmental agreement developed by the Solicitor Working Group for use by CONNECT municipalities as a resource to encourage effective and efficient cooperation between its members.

Resolution 12-04 ADOPTED 6.14.2012

WHEREAS CONNECT members recognize that in order to affect positive change, residents of member communities must have input in the identification of policy issues and development of solutions to address those challenges facing urban core communities; and

WHEREAS CONNECT members recognize the importance of residents who live within CONNECT's borders to have such a forum to discuss issues and recommendations.

THEREFORE BE IN RESOLVED that CONNECT will establish a policy working group that will determine how best to involve citizens of CONNECT communities in the work of CONNECT and report back to the Executive Committee their findings by the next Congress.

Resolution 12-05 ADOPTED 6.14.2012

WHEREAS the municipalities of CONNECT support a regional solution to the resolution of the US Environmental Protection Agency Consent Decree with ALCOSAN and its partner municipalities; and

WHEREAS a regional approach that recognizes intergovernmental cooperation, environmental justice and green solutions should be favored.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CONNECT municipalities believe that a regional approach should be limited to the most economical solution available to the region and its impact equitably shared.

Resolution 12-06 ADOPTED 6.14.2012

WHEREAS the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania passed Act 90 in 2011, which enables municipalities to deny municipal permits to applicants violating specific regulations under State law or municipal code or meets certain criteria of tax, water, sewer or refuse collection delinquency on property owned by the applicant anywhere in Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS the enforcement of such a policy requires a statewide database of such violations and delinquencies that is comprehensive in scope, rigorously updated and user-friendly for municipal staff to both upload new information and receive the accurate status of applicants.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CONNECT municipalities call upon the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development to develop a statewide database to track such violations and offers its assistance in development and deployment of any such database.

Resolution 12-07 ADOPTED 6.14.2012

WHEREAS CONNECT has previously resolved to address blight, vacancy, and abandoned housing stock through multi-municipal efforts with local community development and municipal entities and Allegheny County; and

WHEREAS block-level data collection is needed to implement new strategies to mitigate blight in CONNECT municipalities; and

WHEREAS consistent data collection across our urban core can be used to implement superior regional and local strategies to address economic development, crime prevention, and infrastructure needs; and

WHEREAS already existing, consistently collected data can be identified and integrated without the need for a duplication of efforts;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that CONNECT will begin data collection for a demonstration project in participating CONNECT municipalities; and

BE FURTHER RESOLVED that CONNECT municipalities will facilitate information sharing and data collection between their municipalities and CONNECT.

Resolution 12-08 ADOPTED 6.14.2012

WHEREAS a predictable system of review is needed to address recurrent code violations and blighted property; and

WHEREAS the Pennsylvania Urban Development Act has empowered the formation of Blighted Property Review Boards to administer review of blighted properties; and

WHEREAS the Blighted Property Review Board may turn over the blighted property for disposition to public or private development interests.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that CONNECT will work with Allegheny County and community based organizations to form a Blighted Property Review Board that will monitor the recovery of blighted and abandoned properties which will include representatives of the city of Pittsburgh and surrounding municipalities.

Resolution 12-09 ADOPTED 6.14.2012

WHEREAS the elected and appointed municipal officials of CONNECT understand the benefits of streamlining and consolidating overhead program costs to save money, especially during times of fiscal crisis; and

WHEREAS CONNECT further understand the benefits of competitive applications and public-private partnerships to ensure that taxpayer money is spent efficiently and can leverage further investment; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT calls upon the Governor and State Legislature of Pennsylvania to prioritize program funding to incentivize development projects (both single and multi-municipal) through the newly expanded Keystone Communities Program.

Resolution 12-10 ADOPTED 6.14.2012

WHEREAS CONNECT is an institution that has engaged the leaders of 37 municipalities that comprise the urban core of Allegheny County as a means of shared governing; and

WHEREAS CONNECT communities have been working together to address a variety of policy issues including transportation and green infrastructure and blight and abandon properties; and

WHEREAS each CONNECT community is engaged in community and economic development processes in their communities but recognize that a coordinated approach is needed to effectively leverage the power of the urban core.

THEREFORE BE IN RESOLVED that CONNECT will embark on a multi-year project which will develop the first known Integrated Community Economic Development Plan (ICED) for the urban core.

Resolution 12-11 ADOPTED 6.14.2012

WHEREAS the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania enacted an Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard in 2004 mandating that 18% of the statewide energy supply be provided from renewable resources; and

WHEREAS the CONNECT municipalities seek to be leaders in the implementation of residential and small commercial renewable energy options for homes and businesses in the urban core; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT advocates for the streamlining and harmonizing of local processes for the safe installation of and removal of unnecessary market barriers to the development of renewable energy resources in our region.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CONNECT has begun this process through its partnership in the Sun Shot Rooftop Solar Challenge project, a project that is developed standards for solar zoning, coding and ordinances for voluntary adoption by member municipalities.

Resolution 12-12 ADOPTED 6.14.2012

WHEREAS the Port Authority of Allegheny County faces severe operating budget shortfalls and has identified 35% reductions in overall service less than two years after enacting a 15% service cut; and

WHEREAS of the 90 communities identified for service eliminations, 58% are located within the urban core; and

WHEREAS these service reductions and eliminations will levy grave impacts on our urban core's economic, social, cultural, religious, and civic ways of life; and

WHEREAS our in-house research has received feedback from more than 25 businesses (serving more than 200 transit-dependent employees) and more than 100 households expressing their concern over Port Authority service cuts and fare increases.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of CONNECT call upon leaders at the Port Authority, Allegheny County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to identify and enact a long-term sustainable public transportation funding solution to keep our region thriving.

Resolution 12-13 ADOPTED 6.14.2012

WHEREAS a number of CONNECT municipalities have expressed interest in seeking a collaborative wildlife management policy and procedure through CONNECT.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT will facilitate a wildlife management dialogue for the municipalities to discuss past best practices and future cooperative efforts in concert with relevant regional and statewide organizations to find a solution to this multi-municipal challenge.

Resolution 12-14 ADOPTED 6.14.2012

WHEREAS there is a long term funding crisis in the Emergency Medical Services community that can be addressed by establishing a funding pool for EMS providers operating in CONNECT; and

WHEREAS CONNECT is committed to working with potential funders to identify and develop the funding pool; and

WHEREAS ongoing negotiations with the potential funders have progressed and a project has been proposed that will provide the potential funders the financial incentive they require to donate funds to the pool thereby helping to alleviate the financial burden on the providers and municipalities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT endorses and supports the project entitled *CONNECT Advanced Paramedic Program* that will develop and test a shared “advance practice paramedic” service that would provide alternative care and transport to high-risk residents of CONNECT communities and develop a technical resource center to facilitate further consolidation of EMS agency operations; and

BE FURTHER RESOLVED that CONNECT will continue to work to resolve the financial burden CONNECT EMS providers face and will continue to provide financial and in-kind support to their EMS providers.