

MOTION OF THE COUNCIL OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Expressing the sense of Council regarding the local high school Classes of 2020, and the desire of Council for their academic, athletic, and other achievements to be recognized by suitable ceremonies at the appropriate time.

Whereas, many of the students who would be graduating in the Class of 2020 were born in the aftermath of 9-11, and together with their friends and family members have also endured and persevered through the Great Recession of 2009 and now face a global pandemic; and

Whereas, the Governor of the Commonwealth has declared a statewide health emergency and established a statewide "stay at home" order that, *inter alia*, limits the size of gatherings in a fashion that renders graduation ceremonies impossible to conduct at the present time; and

Whereas, the Governor has also ordered all schools within the Commonwealth to be closed for the remainder of the 2019-20 academic year; and

Whereas, while the Council firmly endorses the safety standards and recommendations articulated by the Commonwealth's Department of Health, the Allegheny County Health Department and other national and local agencies and health care providers, the Council also remains keenly aware of the impact of those standards and recommendations on the Class of 2020 in the form of reduced opportunities for academic achievement, cancelled social and sporting events, cancelled or postponed SAT and other testing in the months of March, April and May, and potential uncertainty regarding the start of the 2020-21 academic year at colleges, universities, technical schools, and other entities offering post-secondary education or training;

Whereas, it is the desire of Council to assure the Class of 2020 that its achievements should not be minimized or forgotten due to the timing of the COVID-19 outbreak; rather, those achievements in the face of a global health emergency should be celebrated and congratulated to the fullest extent possible, when such recognition can be accomplished safely; and

Whereas, it is accordingly the judgment of Council that appropriate ceremonies should take place to commemorate the Class of 2020 from each of the 43 school districts located within the County; and

Whereas, Council notes that several school districts within the County have already taken the step of communicating with their graduating students and their families in order to provide information regarding how their various graduations will be commemorated and other events will take place when circumstances permit doing so, and Council would strongly encourage all school districts to make all practicable efforts to have similar communications with their students and families;

The Council of the County of Allegheny therefore hereby moves as follows:

Council hereby recognizes the collective academic, athletic, and other achievements of the local high school Classes of 2020, and expresses its strong desire for these achievements to be recognized by suitable ceremonies at the appropriate times.

The Council further moves:


That the school districts located within the County are hereby strongly encouraged to communicate with their graduating students and their families in order to provide information regarding how their various graduations will be commemorated and other events will take place when circumstances permit doing so, and school districts that have already done so are hereby commended for their proactive attempt to keep their students and families informed of their plans.

PRIMARY SPONSOR: COUNCIL MEMBERS PRIZIO and DeMARCO

CO-SPONSORS: COUNCIL MEMBER BENNETT

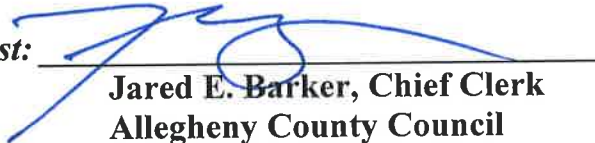
Read and approved in Council, this 21st *day of* April, 2020,

Council Agenda No. 11480-20



**Patrick Catena
President of Council**

Attest:



**Jared E. Barker, Chief Clerk
Allegheny County Council**