



Allegheny County Council

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Proclamation congratulating *Allegheny Shotokan Karate* upon the occasion of its 50th Anniversary.

WHEREAS, founded in 1969 at East Allegheny High School by Bill Viola, Sr., *Allegheny Shotokan Karate*, or *Viola Karate* as it is more commonly known, is celebrating its 50th anniversary of martial arts in Allegheny County and western Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, the family-owned and operated dojo has had three generations of Violas to carry on the legacy that Bill Viola, Sr. created; and at the age of 71, he still teaches a black belt class every Monday; and

WHEREAS, a decade before the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC), Shihan Bill Viola was recognized by the Senator John Heinz History Center in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institution as the co-creator of Mixed Martial Arts (MMA); and

WHEREAS, in 2011, the Western PA Sports Museum established a permanent exhibit to honor Shihan Bill Viola as one of the founding fathers of the sport; his life was subject of the Amazon #1 selling book *Godfathers of MMA* which inspired the documentary film *Tough Guys*; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, the Viola family story was published in the book, *Who's Who in the Martial Arts-Legends of American Karate*; and

WHEREAS, over the years, Shihan Bill Viola has utilized his karate school to instill important lessons in his students: respect, discipline, focus and confidence;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Allegheny County Council Member Bob Macey, do hereby honor and congratulate *Allegheny Shotokan Karate* upon the occasion of its 50th Anniversary, and I thank them for not only serving our communities but using its notoriety as an internationally-known and recognized martial arts school to further benefit charities in our community for generations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 24th day of September 2019.