



Allegheny County Council

County of Allegheny
436 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Phone (412) 350-6490
Fax (412) 350-6499

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Title...

Proclamation honoring in memoriam M.J. Tocci for her professional excellence, mentorship and contributions to Greater Pittsburgh and Allegheny County.

Body...

WHEREAS, on February 15, 2014, M.J. Tocci, a former trial lawyer turned legal consultant who made it her life's mission to work with women to help them achieve success, passed away from this life after a courageous battle with ovarian cancer; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Tocci earned her undergraduate degree in Anthropology from the University of Connecticut and a Juris Doctorate (JD) from the University of San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, named by *California Lawyer* magazine as *One of California's Most Effective Prosecutors*, Ms. Tocci was an award-winning prosecutor and teacher of trial advocacy, communication, negotiation and leadership skills for 20 years; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Tocci, winner of the 2011 ATHENA women's leadership award presented by the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, served as President of Fulcrum Advisors and as a Principal in Trial Run Inc., teaching attorneys high-level litigation skills and helping firms recruit, retain and promote talented women; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Tocci, co-founder and director of the Heinz Negotiation Academy for Women, a five month-long program for executive women, has designed and taught in women's leadership programs nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Tocci enabled all types of women: professionals, entrepreneurs, young students, to recognize and refine their leadership skills, to stand up for themselves and ask and earn what they are worth, and to provide assistance to the next cohort of future women leaders;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Allegheny County Council does hereby honor in memoriam M.J. Tocci for her professional excellence, mentorship and contributions to Greater Pittsburgh and Allegheny County. Ms. Tocci's legacy of mentorship, service and commitment to improving the lives of women will live on in the lives of the women she has mentored and trained and serves as an inspiration to us all.