



Allegheny County Council

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Title:	Motion of the Council of Allegheny County urging the Port Authority of Allegheny County to reinstate at least some weekend service on the 89 - Garfield Commons bus route in order to adequately address the service needs of the population of the Garfield area of the City of Pittsburgh.				
Sponsors:	Denise Ranalli-Russell, Jim Ellenbogen, Michael Finnerty, Nick Futules, Paul Klein, John Palmiere				
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Motion of the Council of Allegheny County urging the Port Authority of Allegheny County to reinstate at least some weekend service on the 89 - Garfield Commons bus route in order to adequately address the service needs of the population of the Garfield area of the City of Pittsburgh.

Whereas, as part of the Port Authority of Allegheny County's 2011 service reductions, weekend service on the 89 - Garfield Commons bus route was discontinued; and

Whereas, losing this service has negatively impacted the neighborhood, and most particularly has disadvantaged a large number of its residents who rely on public transit to get to their jobs (many of which require working on weekends), the grocery store, shopping, community events, places of worship, medical appointments, and more; and

Whereas, currently, 400 people utilize the Garfield Commons route each weekday, while 73.5% of renters in this community do not have access to a vehicle, 93.4% of these residents are African American, and 55.4% of the families in the area live in poverty and are disproportionately disadvantaged by the 2011 service reductions; and

Whereas, many of these transit-dependent riders are now forced to walk up and down steep hills on the weekend for a distance of over half a mile, to get to Penn Ave and Negley Ave in order to access other buses or reach destinations in Garfield, Friendship, Bloomfield, and East Liberty; and

Whereas, residents who are not able to make the lengthy walk must rely on other individuals to give them rides, or must resort to jitneys or taxis, which are comparatively extremely expensive but, for these individuals, they are often the only alternative to remaining stuck in their homes; and

Whereas, many of these residents are senior citizens and eligible for free passes but they cannot use them on the weekend as a result of the service reduction;

Whereas, other Garfield residents who buy weekly, monthly, or yearly passes also are unable to use them on weekends, which account for over 25% of the days in a calendar year, and are thus deprived of a substantial portion of the benefit of having bus passes that span weekends; and

Whereas, even those residents who are eligible for Access must still pay for this service, and, depending upon the nature of their travel needs, may not be able to furnish the 24 hour advance notice necessary to arrange for Access service; and

Whereas, these residents have united to call for reinstatement of weekend bus service on the 89 - Garfield Commons route - an action that would not entail the creation of a new bus route, but, rather, would only require the extension of existing service hours - and have canvassed the neighborhood, attended community meetings, spoken at Port Authority board meetings, met with elected officials, and submitted over 400 requests to the Port Authority as the Authority considers numerous requests for service according to their service guidelines criteria;

Whereas, it is the judgment of Council that the hardships incurred by the termination of weekend service on the 89 - Garfield Commons bus route are significant, have a deleterious effect on the health, safety and well-being of the residents of that area of the City, and are disproportionately borne by minority, elderly, and economically disadvantaged populations.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS MOVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Hereby urges the Port Authority of Allegheny County to reinstate at least some weekend service on the 89 - Garfield Commons bus route in order to adequately address the service needs of the population of the Garfield area of the City of Pittsburgh.