



Allegheny County Council

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Legislation Text

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Title...

Proclamation declaring Wednesday, February 18, 2015 as “Chuck Cooper Foundation Day” in Allegheny County.

Body...

WHEREAS, on Wednesday, February 18, 2015, the Pittsburgh Penguins will host the 5th Annual Chuck Cooper Foundation Awards Luncheon at the Consol Energy Center; and

WHEREAS, Charles “Chuck” Cooper, a Pittsburgh native, was a Duquesne University basketball star who became the first African American drafted by a National Basketball Association (NBA) team when he was selected in the second round by the Boston Celtics on April 29, 1950; and

WHEREAS, after his six-year NBA career, Chuck Cooper, who earned a bachelor’s degree in education from Duquesne University and a master’s degree in social work from the University of Minnesota, became the City of Pittsburgh’s first African American department head when he was named to lead the Parks & Recreation Department in 1970. He later enjoyed a successful career as a community development officer for PNC’s predecessor, Pittsburgh National Bank; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, The Chuck Cooper Foundation was established as a lasting tribute to his legacy, as was Duquesne’s annual Chuck Cooper Classic two years earlier. Since 2013, the Foundation has distributed \$31,000 in scholarships and awarded close to \$3,000 in book stipends benefitting underserved graduate-level students; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Swin Cash has been selected to receive the Chuck Cooper Leadership, Diversity and Community Service Award in recognition of her outstanding basketball career and her tireless work to improve the lives of others; PNC will receive the Chuck Cooper Foundation Trailblazer Award in recognition of its outstanding support, which includes serving as the presenting sponsor of the 5th Annual Chuck Cooper Foundation Awards Luncheon; and the Foundation will present scholarships to six deserving graduate-level students to help ensure they further their academic careers and achieve their professional goals;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Allegheny County Council, along with Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, hereby proclaims Wednesday, February 18, 2015 to be “Chuck Cooper Foundation Day” in Allegheny County, and we congratulate the 2015 Chuck Cooper Foundation Awardees.