



# Allegheny County Council

County of Allegheny  
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## Legislation Text

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File #: 9236-15, Version: 1

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Title...

Proclamation honoring Adam Wade, a singer, drummer and television actor from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, who will be performing at the Billy Strayhorn Centennial Concert.

Body...

**WHEREAS**, Adam Wade, born Patrick Henry Wade, grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and graduated from Westinghouse High School in 1952. After high school, Adam worked as a lab assistant for the research team for Dr. Jonas Salk, who invented the polio vaccine. Adam went on to attend Virginia State University, but married his high school sweetheart, Jeree and soon left school in order to support his young family; and

**WHEREAS**, Adam, a talented vocalist, decided to switch his career path, and in 1960, he signed with Co-ed Records and produced the hit songs, *Ruby* and *I Can't Help It*. In 1961, three of Adam's recordings, *Take Good Care of Her*, *As If I Didn't Know* and *The Writing on the Wall* made the Top 10 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1975, Adam hosted the CBS game show *Musical Chairs*, making him the first African-American game show host; and

**WHEREAS**, Adam starred in the production of *Guys and Dolls* in 1978, and hosted the talk show *Mid-Morning LA*. He has appeared on television in *The Guiding Light*, *Search for Tomorrow*, *Hill Street Blues*, and *Law & Order*, and was a familiar presence on the popular sitcoms *Sanford & Son*, *The Jeffersons*, *What's Happening* and *Good Times*. Adam also appeared in several movies, including *Gordon's War*, *Shaft*, *Come Back Charleston Blue*, *Across 110th Street* and *The Education of Sonny Carson*. Adam has received *Audelco* and *Clio Awards* for his work; and

**WHEREAS**, over forty years after leaving college, Adam returned to school and earned his bachelor's degree from Lehman College and his master's degree from Brooklyn College. He is an adjunct professor of speech and theater at Long Island University and Bloomfield College. In 1983, Wade and his wife, Jeree Wade, started their own production company called Songbird's Unlimited Productions;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Allegheny County Council does hereby commend Adam Wade for his contributions to the performing arts, bringing notoriety to Pittsburgh and Allegheny County, and we thank him for returning to Pittsburgh to perform in the 2015 Billy Strayhorn Centennial Concert on October 17, 2015 at Westinghouse High School.