



# Allegheny County Council

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

## Legislation Text

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File #: 9275-15, Version: 1

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Proclamation congratulating NewsRadio 1020 KDKA, the world's first commercial radio station, upon the momentous occasion of its 95th anniversary.

**WHEREAS**, the science and art of radio began on November 2, 1920 when Westinghouse Electric Corporation's KDKA radio, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, transmitted the world's first commercial radio broadcast, thus inaugurating a new service connecting the people of America and paving the way for other technologies, such as television and the internet; and

**WHEREAS**, in that historic broadcast, the U.S. Harding-Cox presidential election returns were announced from a shed on the roof of the Westinghouse East Pittsburgh Works. With upgrades in technology over the next several years, KDKA's signal would reach audiences across most of the eastern United States and into Canada; and

**WHEREAS**, a myriad of firsts in sports broadcasting helped KDKA bring the action right into people's homes. The first live sporting event was the Johnny Ray vs. Johnny Dundee fight in Pittsburgh's Motor Square Garden on April 11, 1921. On July 2, 1921, KDKA broadcast the World Heavyweight Championship between Jack Dempsey and Georges Carpentier for the first time. On August 5, 1921, the first ever play-by-play of a baseball game was sent over the airwaves by KDKA as the Pirates beat the Phillies, and on October 8, 1921, Pitt's football win over West Virginia became the first football game broadcast, all by KDKA; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to sports broadcasting, KDKA's lineup consisted of music, news and politics until April 10, 1992 when the station aired its last song and transitioned to a strictly news/talk radio format. Today, KDKA is owned and operated by CBS Radio, airing news and talk programming 24 hours a day over a 50,000-watt signal from its studios in the Borough of Green Tree; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout its 95 years, KDKA radio has been nationally recognized and awarded for its excellence in news reporting;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Allegheny County Council does hereby congratulate **NewsRadio 1020 KDKA**, pioneer broadcasting station of the world, upon the momentous occasion of its 95th anniversary, and we commend **NewsRadio 1020 KDKA** for its commitment to having a positive impact on the quality of life for the residents of Allegheny County and our region.