



Allegheny County Council

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Legislation Text

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Proclamation congratulating Ms. LaToya Ruby Frazier, a photographer and video artist from Braddock, Pennsylvania, for winning a 2015 MacArthur Fellowship from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

WHEREAS, LaToya Ruby Frazier, an award-winning photographer and video artist, has been named a **2015 MacArthur Fellow** by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. She will receive an unrestricted \$625,000 fellowship over the course of five years to support her documentary work; and

WHEREAS, LaToya Ruby Frazier has documented herself and family in her project entitled *The Notion of Family* (2014) which paints a picture of the economic decline and failing healthcare system in her hometown of Braddock, Pennsylvania. Her series *Campaign for Braddock Hospital* (“*Save Our Community Hospital*”) chronicles the impact of the hospital’s closure on Braddock’s historically marginalized working-class African American community. Her full-color aerial images of Braddock record the extensive transformations of a community after years of economic collapse; and

WHEREAS, LaToya Ruby Frazier received a B.F.A. from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania and an M.F.A. from Syracuse University. She held artist residencies at the Lower Manhattan Culture Council and the Whitney Museum of American Art Independent Study Program and was the Guna S. Mundheim Fellow at the American Academy in Berlin before assuming her current position as assistant professor in the Department of Photography at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, LaToya Ruby Frazier’s work has appeared in numerous shows in the U.S. and internationally, with notable solo exhibitions at Brooklyn Museum; Seattle Art Museum; Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston; and Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston. In Pittsburgh, Ms. Frazier’s work has been exhibited at the Mattress Factory and the Andy Warhol Museum. **LaToya Ruby Frazier** is the recipient of many awards, including the International Center for Photography Infinity Award (2015) for her first book, *The Notion of Family*, and a prestigious fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation (2014), just to name a few;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Allegheny County Council does hereby congratulate **LaToya Ruby Frazier** for being named a **2015 MacArthur Fellow**, and we thank Ms. Frazier for examining race, class, gender and citizenship in our society and inspiring a vision for the future that offers inclusion, equity and justice to all.