

WHEREAS, discovered during the 6th century and popularized in 1873, the game of chess is proven to advance the cognitive development, personal growth, life skills, and academic performance of children regardless of age, gender, race, or socioeconomic status; and,

WHEREAS, there are several groups and individuals working to promote the game of chess in Pittsburgh, including The Queen’s Gambit Chess Institute, Officer David Shifren of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police Zone 4, the Pittsburgh Chess Club, Western Pennsylvania Youth Chess, and others; and,

WHEREAS, led by Ashley Priore, an award-winning chess player and senior at The Ellis School, the Queen’s Gambit Chess Club seeks to build an inclusive community and social movement around chess and promote the game as an important teaching tool through advocacy, lessons, free programming, and its signature giant chess boards; and,

WHEREAS, in Hazelwood, Knoxville, Sheraden, South Oakland, and other communities citywide, Pittsburgh Bureau of Police Zone 4 Community Resource Officer David Shifren and other Pittsburgh Police Officers teach chess to bridge cultures and backgrounds, offer people of both genders, all ages, and a diverse range of racial and ethnic heritages an opportunity to share a common intellectual pursuit, and foster trusting relations between the Pittsburgh Police and the communities it serves. According to Officer Shifren, chess teaches important life lessons, including “the importance of abiding by rules, learning from mistakes, sacrificing small losses for bigger gains, and thinking before a move”; and,

WHEREAS, other organizations such as Pittsburgh Chess Club and Western Pennsylvania Youth Chess offer lessons and other programming to promote chess to children and adults alike.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby recognize Ashley Priore and the Queen’s Gambit Chess Institute, Officer David Shifren and the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police, and other organizations and individuals who promote the game of chess and advance a culture of learning in Pittsburgh; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby declare the week of October 1-October 8 to be “Chess Week” in the City of Pittsburgh.

Sponsored by Councilman Dan Gilman

Co-sponsored by Council President Bruce Kraus, Theresa Kail-Smith, Deb Gross, Corey O'Connor, Darlene M. Harris, Natalia Rudiak, R. Daniel Lavelle, and Rev. Ricky V. Burgess

Bruce Kraus
President of Council

Attest: Brenda F. Pree, CMC
Clerk of Council

In Council, October 2, 2017