



Report to the People

Summer 2016

State Representative
JAKE WHEATLEY, JR.
19th Legislative District

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4th Annual Health and Wellness Weekend – Sept. 8-11

Our country, state and city face some difficult challenges. Race relations are becoming more and more pronounced, many communities are struggling to deal with how best to transform themselves, and our government at all levels has been rocked with scandals and dysfunction.

When I first envisioned the concept for Health & Wellness Weekend, it was as a response to watching my various neighborhoods throughout the 19th Legislative District struggle to find ways to deal with economic, environmental, mental, physical and spiritual challenges in any coordinated fashion.

I wanted to create life-altering experiences instead of just hosting events. I wanted to create an opportunity to leverage the relationships I have developed and resources that are available to those who are interested in doing productive and impactful things within the 19th District.

Therefore, entering the fourth year of the Health & Wellness Weekend, we continue to build upon the five pillars, which if positively impacted will make for healthier individuals within the 19th District: economical, physical, mental, environmental and spiritual. By extension, these pillars are those by which healthy communities can be engaged as well.

This year, in responding to requests from residents, we have changed the format and are hosting several of the events in various parts of the district. You and your family are encouraged to take part in every event.

The theme of this year's weekend is Faith, Hope, and Love. Unfortunately, some within our communities have lost hope in our futures. Many have also begun to question their faith in both the system and their creator.

Only through the power of believing and loving one another will we turn these challenges into victories. We need to re-establish faith in our government and creator, and to provide some hope in the future and to build upon our love and connection to one another. This is what we plan to accomplish with our Health & Wellness Weekend.

Of course this weekend would not be possible without our partners who make the whole weekend a success. Thank you!



Come join us and share in this transformational weekend!

All events are FREE and open to the public! The schedule includes:

Thursday, Sept. 8

5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Opening Night Reception at Pittsburgh Project Northside

The theme of this event is "Healthy Mind, Body and Soul." There will be food, music, dancing and a panel discussion on mental health and its connection to healthy communities, families and lifestyles. There will be panelists who are doing exceptional work in the mental health field across the 19th Legislative District and the city of Pittsburgh.

Friday, Sept. 9

"LIKE A BOSS" Happy Hour Networking Mixer at Culture Restaurant

This event celebrates the spirit of entrepreneurship emanating throughout the various sectors of the 19th District. We have invited networks and individuals who can offer resources or are entrepreneurs themselves. We will acknowledge and celebrate current entrepreneurs in the 19th Legislative District.

Saturday, Sept. 10

UPHILL 5K RUN/WALK/RIDE

Freedom Corner

Registration: 7:30 a.m.

Bike ride begins: 8:30 a.m.

5K Run/Walk begins: 9:30 a.m.

Register Online at www.uphill5k.com

and

COMMUNITY APPRECIATION DAY

Noon at Kennard Field

This is the cornerstone event of the weekend, featuring free food, games, arts and crafts, and face painting. A basketball tournament, live entertainment and amazing prize giveaways, including electronics and payment of your bills!!

Sunday, Sept. 11

H.E.A.L: HEALTH EXPO FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN LIVING at Warrington Rec Center

This event will feature free health screenings, cooking demonstrations, vendors, a youth obstacle course, free prize giveaways and much more!

My work on your behalf in Harrisburg

Even though my focus and attention will always be our communities here in Pittsburgh, I am also working hard on your behalf in Harrisburg. As Democratic chairman of the House Finance Committee, I played a significant role in getting the state budget completed. My committee specifically worked on the revenue package that funds the state's spending; however, I am disappointed that we passed a budget that doesn't address our long-term increasing budget challenge. Yet I am encouraged there seems to be some acknowledgement of the need for new, sustainable revenues.

In an effort to increase employment, I have proposed a bill that provides an income tax deduction to employers who hire veterans, individuals on assistance and those who struggle to find work because of a criminal record.

I have always believed one of my most important roles as a state legislator is to be an advocate for better education for our children. It is by far the most important investment we can ever make. I am working closely with the PA Department of Education to ensure communities have more transparent access to how we fund our schools. Communities and parents need to see how money is being spent within each school to meet the needs of individual students.

I am also working with colleagues on both sides of the aisle on my proposal to reform how we pay for schools in Pennsylvania, by eliminating property taxes and using a funding formula that recognizes the actual number of students in each district and their individual needs.

I am also working with legislative leaders to finally reform our Occupational Limited License (OLL) provisions, based on legislation I sponsored, making sure those with minor drug convictions are able to get to work or school.

Finally, I am working on new legislation to create a driver's license amnesty program to allow those with suspended licenses to forego a significant portion of any fines and fees and allow them to get their licenses back – which means more legal and insured drivers on our streets.



Creation of Speaker Irvis Scholarship Fund

Earlier this year, state Rep. Ed Gainey and I announced the creation of a new annual scholarship fund for needy students in Allegheny County.

The new scholarship will be the Speaker K. Leroy Irvis Scholarship Fund, named after the former Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, and the first African-American Speaker of the House in the United States.

We will each donate \$2,500 to fund the scholarship, which will be housed within and administered by NEED, the oldest community-based, nonprofit, minority,

higher-education assistance program in Pennsylvania. NEED's vision is to unlock the power of education by helping youth meet their highest potential and enhance their quality of life, thereby strengthening the Pittsburgh regional economy.

Former Speaker Irvis left a tremendous legacy of fighting for social justice and civil rights. He dedicated his life and talents to improving the lives of the people of the commonwealth. I am hopeful a scholarship in his name will help fund the education of future African-American leaders to follow in his footsteps.



Back to School – Make Reading a Priority!

All across the city young students are returning to school. Some children will step foot inside a classroom for the first time, while others will be meeting new teachers and classmates. This is a special time of year as our lives will soon be littered with book bags, homework assignments, pencils and erasers. I urge you to take an active role in your children's education by making reading a priority. A student's ability to read at grade level by the 3rd grade will have strong indicators for their future academic success. Make a commitment to building strong readers this school year!

Dedicating the New August Wilson Park

In August, my office attended the grand opening of the newly named August Wilson Park, the former Cliffside Park, located a few steps from the childhood home of noted Pittsburgh playwright August Wilson. The 1.1-acre park boasts one of the most beautiful and stunning views of the city, complete with a play space for young children, a new basketball court, and historic photos of the Historic Hill District by Teenie Harris.

A \$500,000 state Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program grant that I secured for the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy played a large role in making the renovations possible, along with the generous contributions of The Eden Hall Foundation, Ryan Memorial Foundation, McAuley Ministries and the City of Pittsburgh. The grant was also used to renovate the historic entrance of McKinley Park along Amesbury Street and Delmont Avenue. Through my advocacy, we now have two newly remodeled, beautiful parks that children and families can call home in Beltzhoover and the Hill District.



Affordable Housing Projects in the 19th Legislative District

As Pittsburgh embarks on her newest rebirth, we find ourselves in a great time of opportunity for our oldest and newest neighborhoods alike. New industries, businesses and organizations have set their sights on our great city – and many of us can proudly see the prosperity that lies on the horizon. However, as we move forward we need to ensure that new development makes room for those that have called Pittsburgh home for decades.

The Affordable Housing Tax-Credit programs, offered through the Department of Community and Economic Development and the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, provide access to future housing developments for countless individuals and families in our region. This past July, four projects were awarded a Low-Income Housing Tax Credit in the City of Pittsburgh, two of which were in my district: the Oakland Planning and Development Corp.'s Affordable Living Project in West Oakland and Bridging the Gap's Miller Street Apartments in the Hill District.

Currently in the Oakland neighborhood, OPDC's affordable living project enables the community to maintain its diversity and affordability by reclaiming vacant, blighted land while reinvesting in and preserving 24 units of affordable housing. In the Hill District, Bridging the Gap's Miller Street Apartment project not only provides 36 affordable housing units but also provides training opportunities for residents in conjunction with the Energy Innovation Center.

I look forward to continuing to passionately advocate for resources and support of these groundbreaking, innovative projects, and I vow to tirelessly fight to ensure the 19th Legislative District remains home to Pittsburghers from all socio-economic backgrounds and walks of life.



I had a great time attending various events in communities throughout the 19th District on National Night Out in August.

You're invited to roundtables on improving our communities

I have formed a coalition with Rep. Ed Gainey, City Councilmen the Rev. Ricky Burgess and Daniel Lavelle, and County Councilman DeWitt Walton to work to find common ground and policies that can address the long-time structural and systemic challenges facing too many of our underserved, traditional majority black communities across the city.

We want to hear from you! Please plan to attend one of our upcoming events, which are scheduled for:

Sept. 1 – West End Works Center

Sept. 8 – Hill District Kaufmann Building Hill House

Sept. 15 – South Hilltop Lighthouse Ministries

Sept. 21 – East End-Homewood Library

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and light refreshments will be served. The programs will begin at 6 p.m. ALL ARE WELCOME!

JAKE WHEATLEY, JR.

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INSIDE:

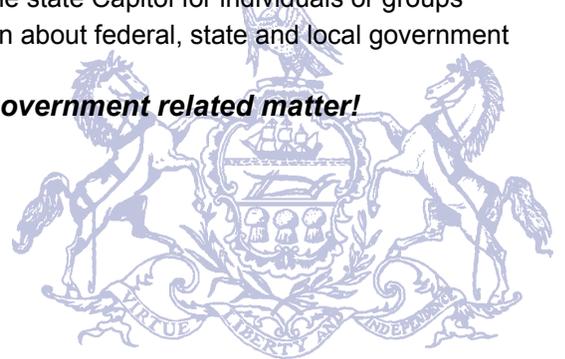
- **Health and Wellness Weekend**
- **August Wilson Park Opening**
- **Upcoming Community Roundtables**

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My office can help you with:

- Car registrations, special tags, handicap placards, titles and driver's license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Assistance in obtaining and completing state forms of all kinds
- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
- Birth and death certificates
- Issues with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
- Requests for literature of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
- Inquiries about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- Issues with insurance companies
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program problems or questions
- Questions about the state lottery
- PACE prescription-drug cards for senior citizens
- Consumer complaints
- Liquor Control Board concerns or questions
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups
- Information about federal, state and local government agencies

Any state-government related matter!



My office is open to you!

Follow me on social media for updates on what we are doing on your behalf.

 @RepWheatley

 Facebook.com/RepWheatley

Please contact me with any ideas and issues you feel are important. I am your advocate in Harrisburg and your opinions matter. Also let me know of any special or upcoming events your organization is hosting or you are having in your community that may need recognition and/or support. I am also available to speak at your meeting, event or activity.

Fill out this feedback form and mail it to my office at 2015 1st Floor Centre Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15219 or email me with your concerns at JWheatley@pahouse.net.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Comment: _____
