



Office of Councilman Patrick Dowd
 City of Pittsburgh
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News from Councilman Patrick Dowd

December 2010

PROTECTION (cont. from Page 1)

Drilling on sites less than 15 acres in area would be prohibited and drilling companies would be responsible for creating emergency management plans and paying to train public safety employees. Introducing this legislation as a zoning change made it effective until Council votes on the legislation.

Councilman Dowd's actions will protect the health, safety, and well-being of his constituents and the citizens of the City of Pittsburgh from the harmful effects of Marcellus Shale drilling.

Do you know of a special anniversary or commemoration deserving recognition by Pittsburgh's City Council? If so, please contact the District 7 office.



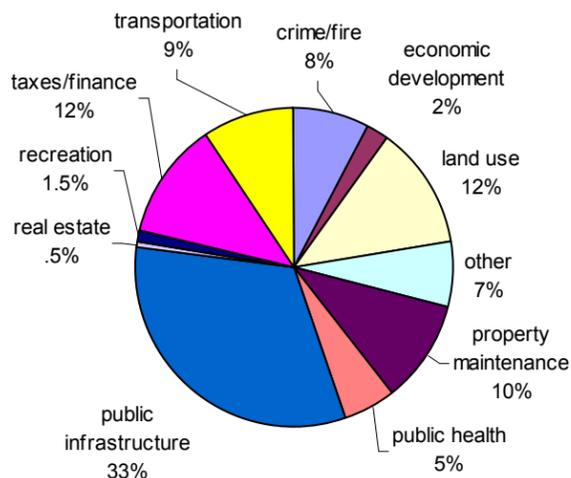
Councilman Dowd, joined by Councilman Ricky Burgess, honors the Farmer's Market Cooperative of East Liberty during National Farmer's Market Week August 2-8. FMC celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2010.

DISTRICT 7 by the Numbers

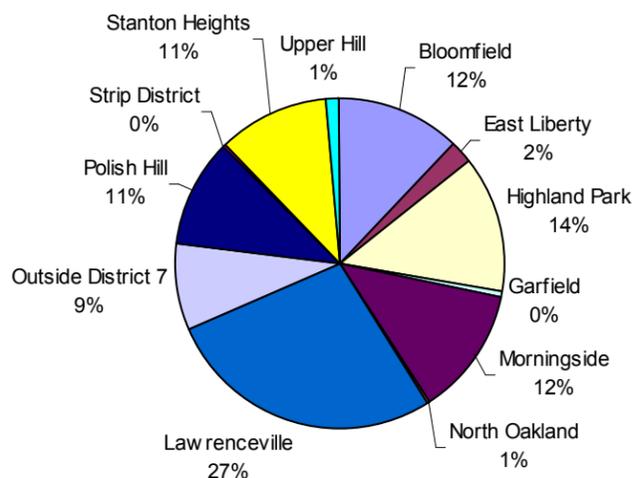
District 7's pledge to transparency in government is evident in its everyday activities. Councilman Dowd and his staff developed a first-of-its-kind tracking system for all constituent service cases that come through the office. This system has served as a model for other council offices.

Every year, District 7 provides data on constituent activities. In 2010, District 7 staff answered over 1000 requests for service! The kinds of questions received and the neighborhoods serviced are detailed in the graphs below.

Calls by Type



Calls by Neighborhood



Council Member Patrick Dowd

Councilman Patrick Dowd represents over 30,000 residents in District 7 who reside in the neighborhoods of Highland Park, Lawrenceville, Morningside, Stanton Heights, and parts of Bloomfield, East Liberty, Garfield, North Oakland, Upper Hill, and the Strip District.

Councilman Dowd chairs the Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and serves on the boards of the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority, the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium and Riverlife.

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Dear Neighbor,

I am honored to serve as your representative on Pittsburgh's City Council and am pleased to provide you with the 2010 Annual Report on our services. Over the past year, the District 7 team has worked hard to solve public safety and infrastructure problems while also addressing important city-wide issues.

Water quality and neighborhood safety have dominated our work in 2010 because of potential **Marcellus Shale Drilling**. As a board member at Pittsburgh Water & Sewer Authority, I am working to ensure the staff has the resources and tools required to ensure the highest water quality. In June, I introduced **zoning legislation** which essentially established a moratorium on drilling activity in the City. Working with colleagues, I introduced and won unanimous support for a resolution supporting Senator Ferlo's proposed **statewide moratorium** on new drilling activity. Over the summer, the District 7 team organized the **first citywide town hall meeting** on the issue. While I recently supported a citywide ban on drilling, I am working with colleagues to bring zoning legislation to a vote in 2011.

In dozens of conversations across District 7, residents have shared their concerns regarding the mayor's plan to lease parking assets for 50 years. I have worked with my Council colleagues and Controller Lamb to build a coalition of officials dedicated to **saving our pension fund, keeping public assets public, and improving parking services**. We have crafted different options for achieving these goals and hope that the Mayor will join with us.

As always, our office is dedicated to quality of life issues that affect us daily. As this report shows, I have been busy working to **support the police** and their work, **food access**, and **library funding**. I am dedicated to **advancing development** while simultaneously **greening our neighborhoods**. As a Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority board member, I continue to work to **improve PWSA's finances and customer service**.

I look forward to working with other political leaders, community groups, and constituents to face the challenges of the coming year.

PROTECTION from Marcellus Shale Drilling



Marcellus Shale drilling site in Washington County, PA.

Councilman Dowd has recently introduced legislation that would change the zoning code to address potential environmental and health dangers of **Marcellus Shale Drilling** in the City of Pittsburgh. These regulations would protect homes and public infrastructure by requiring production sites to be built at least 1,000 ft. away from these structures. (Continued on page 4)

NEWS FROM AROUND DISTRICT 7

DOUGHBOY Developments

The **Doughboy Square** project will transform the western entrance to **Lawrenceville**. Neighbors have shaped the exciting outcome of this project through a number of meetings in 2010 with the Lawrenceville Planning Team.



Proposed Doughboy Townhouses by Moss Architects

Developers are now advancing a project that will bring townhouses, office space and restaurants to the intersection of Penn Avenue and Butler Street.

Among the many highlights of the plan for the 30-parcel property are:

- Razing a former gas station, replacing it with a three-story, mixed-use building with 6,000 square feet of retail space on the first floor and offices above
- Building five 2,400-square-foot townhouses expected to be priced in the \$300,000 range between 3405-3415 Butler Street

FOOD ACCESS Issues

Councilman Dowd has long been interested in issues of **food security**—the access and availability of healthy, nutritious and culturally appropriate food within neighborhoods—and is prioritizing this issue in District 7 by developing food access projects.

Councilman Dowd and community leaders are discussing plans for a new Lawrenceville Farmer's Market and a potential cooperative market. Should you have further questions about these projects, please contact us at 412.255.2140 or district7@city.pittsburgh.pa.us.

BRYANT ST. Back on Track

Recently you may have seen some action on **Bryant Street in the heart of Highland Park**. New businesses have been setting up shop on the street transforming it into a vibrant neighborhood business district.

Work on the new location for Park Bruges Café on Bryant Street—an off-shoot of Point Brugge Café in Point Breeze—recently came to a halt due to repeated flooding in basements in the area.

Councilman Dowd facilitated a meeting between community leaders and the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority. PWSA diagnosed the problem and put the time and resources into resolving the issue by replacing the restrictive sewer lines with larger ones.

Nearly \$500,000 later and 3 weeks ahead of schedule, the vision of creating a lively commercial district in Highland Park is back on track.



PWSA Update

Customer service continues to be Councilman Dowd's priority as a PWSA board member. The **ULS Line Insurance** program protects over 90,000 customers. Councilman Dowd advanced funding for a new data system that will improve customer service and advanced funding for increased inspection of fire hydrants.

Finally, he also introduced legislation ending decades of wasteful water rate subsidization. Over the last 25 years PWSA has funded Pennsylvania American Water an average of \$2.2 million annually to equalize City customer rates.



Proposed Allegheny River Greenway

Protecting our HILLSIDES

Councilman Dowd recently introduced legislation to create the **Allegheny River Greenway** along the northern edges of **Morningside and Stanton Heights** near the Allegheny River.

Residents generated the vision of the greenway and neighborhood groups representing Morningside and Stanton Heights have supported the idea.

The greenway will preserve the wooded public hillsides that are integral to the aesthetics and environment of Stanton Heights and Morningside. Additionally, the process for establishing the greenway is bringing together neighbors, community organizations and local officials to improve the quality of our communities.

Honoring our FALLEN HEROES

In remembrance of the tragic events in Stanton Heights that claimed the lives of Officers Eric Kelly, Stephen Mayhle and Paul Scullo II, Councilman Dowd worked with the community, the slain officer's families and the Fraternal Order of Police to ensure that each officer has a memorial field named in their honor.



Stanton Heights Memorial to slain police officer Eric G. Kelly and improvements to the newly dedicated Kelly Field were completed in April.

NEWS, CONTINUED.

POLISH HILL Developments

This past year, **Polish Hill** experienced a rush of business and recreational development. The grand openings of **Mind Cure Records**, the **Copacetic Comics Company** and the **Lili Coffee*shop**, all at 3138 Dobson Street, were causes for celebration.

If you missed the grand opening celebrations, you can still join Councilman Patrick Dowd and staff at the bi-monthly Polish Hill Council to Go at Lili Coffee*shop to check out the scene. The next one is scheduled for Wednesday, January 12, from 6:30 to 8pm.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY Update

In January, Councilman Dowd joined the board of the **Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh** (CLP). He jumped right into the discussion of finding long-term, sustainable funding for CLP.

In July, CLP came to Lawrenceville as part of the "Community Conversation" set up by the board to listen to the public. The CLP board then held a retreat in November to review information gathered from the community and from their special task force.

In December, the board will begin charting a new strategic direction for CLP.

TRANSPORTATION Funding

The City and Riverlife, of which Councilman Dowd is a board member, have received a **\$1.5 million grant** from the U.S. Department of Transportation's TIGER II (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) fund to develop a multi-modal transportation corridor along a 6.45-mile stretch of land along the Allegheny Riverfront.

The aptly named Allegheny Riverfront Green Boulevard Project will expand the current usage of the existing Allegheny Valley Railroad freight line to create a "green spine" connecting all neighborhoods along the riverfront, spurring future development for housing and commerce along the corridor.



Council to Go Meeting in Morningside

Where to Find COUNCIL TO GO

In a pilot program over the past year, Councilman Dowd and staff have hosted several **Council to Go** sessions at Crazy Mocha Coffee Company at 4525 Liberty Avenue in **Bloomfield**.

We have had many in-depth conversations on issues ranging from parking in the neighborhood to the impact of the closing of West Penn Hospital's emergency room.

Councilman Dowd intends to continue these meetings in Bloomfield and requests your participation. Future bi-monthly, Tuesday evening, 6-7pm, dates include:

- January 25, 2011
- March 22, 2011
- May 24, 2011

Please find the Council to Go schedule and times on our website at www.city.pittsburgh.pa/district7/

Have a great district photo to share? Please post it on our new Facebook page. Search for City of Pittsburgh District 7.



Photo Credit: Martha Rial

Patrick Dowd cutting the ribbon with special helpers at the recent opening of the Sojourner House MOMS new play yard in Highland Park.