WHEREAS, the YWCA Greater Pittsburgh has chosen to honor Mr. J.G. Boccella as a recipient of the 2014 Racial Justice Award, an annual tribute to leaders who promote equality in society; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Boccella is an artist, musician, and social-change catalyst with over ten years of experience in the nexus of arts, education, and advocacy; his mission is to bring people together through music, art, and ideas; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Boccella’s painting work includes his “OneLily” series, “Diversity Flag” series, and “Fierce Women” series; in his speaker programs and upcoming book, “The Conversation We COULD Be Having,” he shares his key insight about how a simple paradigm shift could have a profound effect on race relations; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Boccella holds a bachelor’s degree in Visual Art from Brown University, and a master’s degree in Arts in Education from Harvard University; he has appeared at The Consortium for Public Education, The CORO Center for Leadership, The Mayor’s Council on Youth, Presidential Classroom, as well as various universities, corporations, high schools, and churches; and

WHEREAS, Allegheny County is fortunate to have the leadership and dedication that Mr. Boccella brings to our region and is grateful for his work to create an equal society for all.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby congratulate Mr. J.G. Boccella on receiving the 2014 Racial Justice Award and thank him for his commitment to promoting equality within our community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 29th day of October, 2014.

Rich Fitzgerald