WHEREAS, the Gella Family Foundation Community Leadership Awards honor individuals and organizations demonstrating excellence in leadership and performing extraordinary work to address community challenges; the awards are designed to advance community-driven efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Gella Family Foundation, part of the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies, chose K.R. Channarasappa and Gowramma Channarasappa to receive 2017 Community Leadership Awards at the banquet hall at India Garden in Monroeville; and

WHEREAS, for the past 50 years, K.R. and Gowramma have made a positive impact in Pittsburgh, providing guidance to hundreds of Indians who have moved to the area; K.R. contributed to and introduced new programs to the Sri Venkateswara Temple in Penn Hills, helping to address critical issues, both cultural and religious, facing the local Indian community; and

WHEREAS, from 1967-73, K.R. was President of the Theosophical Society of Pittsburgh which sponsors education seminars in religion, philosophy, science, health, and the arts; and

WHEREAS, K.R. also worked as a civil and structural engineer for Swindell Dressler International in Coraopolis where he was involved in a $20 million rehabilitation of the Smithfield Street Bridge in 1993; he also contributed to PA Turnpike Commission engineering activities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby congratulate K.R. Channarasappa and Gowramma Channarasappa on receiving the Gella Family Foundation Community Leadership Award and thank them for their outstanding achievement, community service and citizenship in the Pittsburgh area.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 10th day of December, 2017.

Rich Fitzgerald
RICH FITZGERALD