



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **COUNTY, CITY OFFICIALS PARTNER WITH SPECIAL OLYMPICS PA TO HOST PITTSBURGH “CITIES OF INCLUSION” SUMMIT**

*County Executive Rich Fitzgerald and Mayor Bill Peduto Among Officials to Attend*

**(PITTSBURGH, PA, April 18, 2019)** – On Tuesday, April 23, 2019, a Pittsburgh “Cities of Inclusion” Summit will bring together county and city officials, corporate leaders, foundations and other funders, nonprofit organizations, and various other community leaders to jointly create a vision for Pittsburgh as an inclusive city. An inclusive city is an urban community offering attitudes that value everyone and social inclusion that ensures people of all abilities are involved in their communities, able to effectively pursue opportunities and contribute, safely express themselves, and exercise their rights. These cities provide access and opportunities for everyone to take part in employment, education, health and to access community services. Co-hosted by Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA), the City of Pittsburgh and the Office of the Mayor, The Pittsburgh Pirates and Pirates Charities, and the R.K. Mellon Family Foundation, the summit will take place from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Hyundai Club at PNC Park, located at 115 Federal Street in Pittsburgh, PA.

Pittsburgh now becomes the second city to commit to moving toward becoming an “Inclusive City” by convening a city-wide Summit following Philadelphia that held its Summit in December 2018. This uniquely positions Pennsylvania globally to become the first “state of inclusion.”

“Special Olympics Pennsylvania is proud to be a pioneer in a movement for global change. Through the transformative and inclusive power of sports, we help people with intellectual disabilities develop essential life skills and lead healthier lifestyles and thereby become more productive and accepted members of their communities,” said Matt Aaron, SOPA’s President & CEO. “As we approach our 50th anniversary, we are leading the ‘Inclusion Revolution’ to engage, empower, and transform our communities to ensure full inclusion for people with intellectual disabilities.”

Each city recognized as a “City of Inclusion” is expected to commit to creating a city-specific, multi-year Inclusion Plan with detailed objectives spanning multiple areas. Inclusive cities have the potential to make our communities better places to live and more welcoming for everyone across five focus areas: Education, Healthcare, Access to Information and Services, Adequate Housing and Employment.

More than 100 stakeholders, partners, and potential funders are expected to attend the Pittsburgh Cities of Inclusion Summit.

The Summit will begin at 9 a.m. with opening remarks by special guests to include Pittsburgh Pirates Chairman Bob Nutting and PA Representative Dan Miller. In addition, there will be a lunch program that will feature comments from County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, City of Pittsburgh Mayor William Peduto, and Loretta Claiborne, SOPA athlete and Special Olympics International’s Chief Inspiration Officer. The

### **Special Olympics Pennsylvania**

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rest of the Summit will consist of working sessions centered on each of the five aforementioned focus areas. The event concludes at 3:30 p.m.

The Pittsburgh Cities of Inclusion Summit is made possible with generous support from the R. K. Mellon Family Foundation and The Pittsburgh Pirates and Pirates Charities.

### **About Special Olympics Pennsylvania**

Special Olympics Pennsylvania provides year-round training and competition in 21 Olympic-type sports to approximately 20,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities or closely related developmental disabilities. For more information about how you can join “The Inclusion Revolution,” visit [www.specialolympicspa.org](http://www.specialolympicspa.org).

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