



## REQUEST FOR COVERAGE

December 14, 2023

### CONTACTS:

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## ALLEGHENY COUNTY HOMELESS SERVICE PROVIDERS & HOMELESS COMMUNITY MEMBERS GATHER TO HONOR & REMEMBER 22 INDIVIDUALS WHO DIED WHILE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN 2023

**WHO:** Members of Pittsburgh’s homeless community and representatives from several homeless service providers in the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County.

**WHAT:** Annual candlelight vigil to remember 22 individuals who are known to have died while experiencing homelessness in 2023. **Danielle R. Schnauber Jones, MSN, APRN, FNP-C**, a nurse practitioner with [Pittsburgh Mercy’s Operation Safety Net](#), and **Ben Talik**, ROOTS Program Manager for the City of Pittsburgh Department of Public Safety, Office of Community Health and Safety, organized this year’s vigil. **Max Hurwitz, DO**, assistant medical director of [Street Medicine at Pitt](#), will deliver the keynote address. **Smokestack Lightning**, a Pittsburgh-based alternative folk music band, will provide the music. Family and friends of the deceased, elected leaders, and the public are encouraged to attend.

**WHEN:** Thursday, December 21, 2023, at 7 p.m.

**WHERE:** The wall of memorial plaques is located below a highway overpass at the intersection of Fort Pitt Boulevard and Grant Street, Downtown. Bronze plaques commemorate the lives of the 241\* individuals who died while experiencing homelessness since 1992. (\*241 as of Dec. 14, 2023.)

**WHY:** December 21, 2023 is [National Homeless Persons’ Memorial Day](#), the 2023 [Winter Solstice](#), the first day of winter, and the longest night of the year. Every year, on or around this date since 1996, homeless service providers have gathered to honor and remember those who have died while experiencing homelessness, renew their commitment to health care equity and advocacy for all, and continue to work toward the day when no person in our community dies due to a lack of safe, affordable housing.

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