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### Upper St. Clair Student Leandra Mira Leads Students and SWPA in Youth Climate Strike



Eighteen-year-old Leandra Mira started out alone staging a quiet demonstration on the steps of the Pittsburgh City-County Building every Friday for the last 16 weeks, protesting what she sees as a failure of the adult world – especially government leaders – to take decisive action on Climate Change.

**This Friday, Sept. 20, 2019 at Noon, Mira’s protest will grow when students and citizens join her for the Global Climate Strike taking place around the world. National organizers say the protest will be bigger than the Women’s March for Our Lives – with more than 500 locations registered worldwide.**

Even Mayor Bill Peduto has gotten involved, signing school permission slips to enable student attendance.

**Mira, youth and adult speakers will begin speaking promptly at noon on the steps of the Pittsburgh City-County Building, 414 Grant St. Pittsburgh. A rally will follow. Mira is the lead organizer with support from 350 Pittsburgh.**

Media is encouraged to attend.

“We need to declare a climate emergency,” Mira says. “Our politicians are acting like climate change doesn’t exist. If a climate crisis were declared, they wouldn’t be able to deny this is a catastrophic issue. Our own leaders are denying that we are building a plastics petrochemical plant in our back yard that will emit greenhouse gases that make it impossible to meet our climate goals.”

Speakers will include Mira, youth speakers, a grandmother and state legislator. The event is sponsored by 350 Pittsburgh and supported by several local environmental groups.

Before the Climate Strike, the Thomas Merton Center will hold an Interfaith Peace Walk and Meditation from Trinity Cathedral, 328 Sixth Ave., Pittsburgh to the City County Building.

**Climate Strike Speakers (in order) will be:**

Leandra Mira, 18, Upper St. Clair: Welcome and Climate Action Demands

Malachi Browns, 5, Crafton: Plastic, waste and sea turtles.

Maria Isabel Villegas, 18, Oakland: A Tale of Two Category 5 Hurricanes, how climate change is affecting vulnerable global communities

Gunner Bjornson, 13, Washington County: Lives in a community affected by fracking

Benjamin Gutschow, 17, Squirrel Hill: "The injustice of climate change: A call for united action" Speech from a high schoolers perspective of the climate crisis, and why it's so important that highschool students strike.

Elsie Ley, 9, Trafford Borough: Impacts to wildlife and demands of Gov. Wolf

Aidan Graber, 11, Trafford Elementary, Westmoreland County: Our fight against new oil and gas development in our community.

State Rep. Sara Innamorato

Dr. Patricia Demarco, grandmother and environmental activist. The older generations perspective of the crisis and passing the torch.