



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**May 29, 2026**

**Contact:** Todd McCollum  
Media Relations  
contact@atlasstrategiesgroup.com

## **Law-Abiding Pittsburghers Should Not Lose Community Traditions to Disorder**

**PITTSBURGH, PA** — Congressional candidate James Hayes today responded to the cancellation of the Jam on Walnut summer concert series, saying the loss of another long-standing community event shows how law-abiding citizens, families, local businesses, and neighborhoods are being punished for the misconduct of those who refuse to respect the basic rules of civilized society.

"Jam on Walnut should have been a simple Pittsburgh tradition with neighbors gathering, families enjoying music, local businesses welcoming customers, and young people seeing the best of their community," Hayes said. "Instead, responsible citizens are losing something good because too many people have been allowed to believe that rules do not apply to them. That is not fair to the families, seniors, business owners, and residents who want only to enjoy their neighborhood in peace."

Hayes said the cancellation is not an isolated inconvenience. It is part of a larger pattern in which people who follow the law see their way of life made smaller and less enjoyable because public officials and community leaders have too often failed to insist on order, accountability, and respect for others.

"When a small number of people engage in disruptive behavior, underage drinking, intimidation, vandalism, or disorderly conduct, the answer cannot be to take away opportunities from everyone else," Hayes said. "The answer is to enforce the law, support the police officers who keep our neighborhoods safe, hold offenders accountable, and make clear that public spaces belong to the entire community, not to those intent on disrupting them."

Hayes emphasized that public safety cannot be separated from personal responsibility. Law enforcement must have the resources, support, and political backing necessary to prevent disorder before it becomes dangerous. At the same time, parents must be actively involved in teaching their children respect, discipline, and consequences.

"Responsible parenting is one of the first lines of public safety," Hayes said. "Young people need adults in their lives who care enough to set boundaries, ask where they are going, know who they are with, and teach them that freedom comes with responsibility. Communities suffer when too many young people are left without guidance, structure, or accountability."

Hayes also called for stronger after-school, athletic, arts, mentoring, job-training, faith-based, and other extracurricular opportunities that give young people constructive ways to develop discipline, confidence, friendships, and purpose. He said boredom and lack of direction are not excuses for

bad behavior, but communities should do more to help young people choose productive paths before trouble begins.

"We should be investing in opportunities that help young people grow into responsible adults," Hayes said. "Sports, music, scouting, church and synagogue youth programs, apprenticeships, volunteer service, internships, and mentoring can all help young people build character, learn teamwork, and avoid the kind of idle time that too often leads to trouble."

Hayes said the breakdown in discipline among some young people mirrors a broader breakdown in civility visible throughout everyday society. Too many public debates are marked by hostility rather than respect, too many disagreements become personal attacks, and too many people treat shared spaces as though the comfort and safety of others do not matter.

"We cannot expect young people to practice respect if adults refuse to model it," Hayes said. "Each of us has a role to play. We can disagree without demeaning each other. We can insist on standards without losing compassion. We can support law enforcement while also supporting young people. We can help rebuild a culture of mutual respect by living it in our homes, our schools, our businesses, our neighborhoods, and our politics."

Hayes said Pittsburgh should reject the idea that disorder is inevitable or that residents must simply accept the loss of traditions that once brought people together.

"Families should not have to avoid business districts. Seniors should not feel uncomfortable attending community events. Small businesses should not lose customers because people feel unsafe. And young people who are doing the right thing should not lose positive community experiences because others refuse to behave responsibly," Hayes said. "Pittsburgh can do better, but only if we are honest about the problem and serious about the solutions."

Western Pennsylvania families deserve safe streets, thriving neighborhoods, strong community events, and a culture that rewards responsibility rather than disorder. Hayes said that requires supporting law enforcement, strengthening families, creating constructive opportunities for young people, and restoring the mutual respect that allows communities to flourish.

---

### **About James Hayes**

James Hayes is a candidate for U.S. Congress in Pennsylvania's 12th District. A Western Pennsylvania native, Hayes is focused on strengthening communities through economic opportunity, public safety, and responsible leadership. His campaign emphasizes practical solutions, support for first responders, and a commitment to bringing people together to address the challenges facing families across Southwestern Pennsylvania.

###

**James Hayes for Congress**  
**P.O. Box 110157**  
**Pittsburgh, PA 15232**  
**[jameshayesforpa.com](http://jameshayesforpa.com)**