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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Releases Update to the Community**

**(PITTSBURGH, PA – August 5, 2010)** For the past seven months Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh and the community have been working together to find options for sustainability. Today, Library officials released the second in a series of Community Updates to keep all community members apprised of important milestones and progress made toward the long-term financial and operational health of the system.

The August update, available on the Library's Web site ([www.carnegielibrary.org/progress](http://www.carnegielibrary.org/progress)), includes a progress report on these initiatives, including state funding cuts, the Library's 2011 budget request to the Allegheny Regional Asset District (RAD), the Library's Public Private Task Force and Community Conversation process, details of the Library's 2009 and 2010 operating expenses and current fundraising and advocacy measures.

In 2009 the Library projected a \$5 million deficit by 2014 and presented an Action Plan to the community, which included increases in fines, fees and fundraising; reductions in library services and staffing, as well as branch consolidations and closures. Due to one-time stop-gap funding from the City of Pittsburgh, major portions of that Action Plan are currently on hold until January 2011 as the Library works to find long-term dedicated funding.

The Library is committed to ongoing dialog and information sharing with the community. Additional Community Updates are planned as the Library works to close the gap between increasing costs and declining revenues.

Community members interested in learning more about Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh and how they can help protect Pittsburgh's library system may view the Community Update at [www.carnegielibrary.org/progress](http://www.carnegielibrary.org/progress).

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### **About Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh**

*Engaging our Community in Literacy and Learning*

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh contributes to the educational attainment, economic development, and cultural enrichment of the region. Through critical services such as early learning programs for children, job search assistance and computer and Internet access, the Library fosters lifelong learning and is a renowned leader among the nation's libraries. With more than 2 million visitors and 3.5 million items borrowed each year, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh is the region's most visited asset and one of the largest public libraries in Pennsylvania. Established in 1895 by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie as a public trust to be funded by the community, the Library derives approximately 90% of its annual operating budget from public or government sources, including the Allegheny County Regional Asset District (RAD), the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the City of Pittsburgh.