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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September 18, 2008

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Allegheny County to Celebrate 220th Birthday on Wednesday

Event will also mark the 120th Anniversary of the Courthouse's opening

PITTSBURGH — Allegheny County Executive Dan Onorato today announced a celebration on Wednesday, Sept. 24, at noon in the Courthouse Courtyard to commemorate the 220th Anniversary of the creation of Allegheny County.

Allegheny County was formed on Sept. 24, 1788, from parts of Washington and Westmoreland counties after settlers living around Pittsburgh pressured the Commonwealth government to create a new county. Allegheny County originally extended north to Lake Erie, and its current borders were set by 1800.

“For 220 years, Allegheny County has played a vital role in the history and success of our Commonwealth and nation,” said Onorato. “In 1788, we were the gateway to the West, and today, we are a center of technology and innovation. Wednesday’s event will be an opportunity to celebrate both our rich history and our bright future.”

The celebration will feature birthday cake, balloons and music by Bill Deasy, courtesy of National City Bank.

“National City is pleased to honor Allegheny County’s 220th Anniversary through this unique celebration,” said National City Bank Pennsylvania President Todd Moules. “The National City family is proud to serve this great community, and we look forward to being a part of many exciting initiatives in the future.”

Those attending the event are asked to bring a “birthday gift” of non-perishable food or a cash donation, which will go to the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

“Birthdays are a time for gifts. On Allegheny County’s birthday, what finer gift could we give than to help our neighbors in need?” asked Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank CEO Joyce Rothermel. “Many thanks to Allegheny County for once again supporting the Food Bank

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and helping us to raise food, funds and awareness. With rising food and fuel prices, and winter on the way, this effort couldn't be timelier."

Sept. 24 also marks the 120th Anniversary of the opening of the Allegheny County Courthouse, designed in 1883 by Boston architect Henry Hobson Richardson. This internationally recognized historic structure reflects Hobson's stature as one the greatest architects in American history. The courthouse continues to draw visitors from around the world who marvel at its simple style, dignity and strength. Construction on the courthouse complex began in 1884. Work on the jail was completed in 1886, and the courthouse was completed in 1888.

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