Onorato, Chapman Celebrate 302-Acre Brownfield Development in Findlay Twp.

PITTSBURGH — Allegheny County Executive Dan Onorato, Chapman Properties President Steve Thomas, and Findlay Twp. officials celebrated the groundbreaking of Chapman Commerce Center at Westport Road in Findlay Twp. The 302-acre, formerly strip-mined site will be developed into a 2.6-million-square-foot mixed-use project with direct access to Pa. Turnpike 576 near Pittsburgh International Airport.

“Chapman Commerce Center is another great example of our aggressive efforts to clean and reclaim brownfields and return them to viable economic uses through public-private partnerships,” said Allegheny County Executive Dan Onorato. “Following our Allegheny County Comprehensive Plan, this site will be transformed into industrial, flex, office, and commercial space, bringing an estimated 1,400 new jobs to our region.”

Phase I of the development, to begin this summer, will open 40 acres of pad-ready sites planned for Class A distribution and light manufacturing space with roads and utility infrastructure. The development includes a Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection-endorsed sustainable stormwater management system. Construction of a 93,000-square-foot LEED-certified warehouse/light manufacturing building is planned for 2011. Phase I infrastructure and site development work will be funded through a $2 million Commonwealth Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program grant.

“We share Dan Onorato’s vision of the airport corridor as a major business growth driver for the region going forward,” said Thomas. “In particular, the demand for Class A ‘big box’ distribution space with state of the art features and direct interstate highway access remains strong.”
The groundbreaking ceremony, attended by approximately 100 people, included brief addresses by Allegheny County Council President Rich Fitzgerald, Allegheny County Economic Development Director Dennis Davin, and Findlay Township Board of Supervisors Chairman Tom Gallant.