



greater pittsburgh
chamber of commerce

For Immediate Release

MAYOR, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HIGHLIGHT THE TOP FIVE PITTSBURGH ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE THE CITY LAST HOSTED THE AFC CHAMPIONSHIP (IN 2009)

[Pittsburgh, PA – January 19, 2011] The buzz has been building about Pittsburgh since the city last hosted the AFC Championship game in January 2009 between the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Baltimore Ravens. Five great things have combined to put Pittsburgh in the global spotlight and contributed to an economy that's outperforming the nation as a whole:

1. Pittsburgh re-emerged as the City of Champions.
2. The White House chose Pittsburgh to host President Obama's first G-20 leaders' summit.
3. The Economist and Forbes.com named Pittsburgh America's most livable city.
4. The United Nations selected Pittsburgh to host World Environment Day in North America.
5. Global investors have poured more than *\$20 billion* into the region's booming natural gas industry, making the Greater Pittsburgh region America's emerging energy leader.

"Pittsburgh is America's greatest comeback story, as the Ravens found out last week," said Mayor Luke Ravenstahl. "Over the past thirty years we've rebuilt our economy,

transformed our environment, created the most livable city in America, and reclaimed our rightful place as a sports powerhouse.”

The Steelers went on from their victory at home in the AFC Championship to win Super Bowl XLIII against the Arizona Cardinals in February 2009, setting an all-time NFL record by winning their sixth Super Bowl. Later in 2009, the Pittsburgh Penguins won the Stanley Cup, making Pittsburgh the only city to hold both the Lombardi Trophy and the Stanley Cup at the same time.

Again the City of Champions, Pittsburgh was chosen by the White House to host President Obama’s first G-20 leaders’ summit. The Pittsburgh Summit 2009 brought world leaders, their spouses, and their delegations to the region September 24-25, resulting in thousands of media reports worldwide telling the story of the region’s 30-year economic, environmental and quality of life transformation.

In 2009 and in 2010 Pittsburgh was recognized as the most livable place in America by *The Economist* and Forbes.com, respectively, the third year in a row that Pittsburgh has been so ranked.

The global exposure from the G-20 culminated in the decision by the United Nations Environment Programme to select Pittsburgh as North American Host City for World Environment Day 2010. In June as part of that celebration, Pittsburgh set a Guinness World Record™ for the largest flotilla of canoes and kayaks ever assembled, just offshore of Heinz Field at the confluence of the three rivers, celebrating the region’s global leadership in environmental transformation.

In 2011, as Pittsburgh prepares to host the AFC Championship game for the fourth time in ten years, the region is gaining new momentum as America’s emerging center of energy excellence. Despite the job losses of the Great Recession, Pittsburgh’s economy has outperformed the national average for four years running, propelled in large part by

more than \$20 billion invested in the Marcellus Shale, the second-largest proven reserve of natural gas in the world, and by rapid growth in the nuclear and other energy industries.

“The best part of it all is that Pittsburgh has jobs, more than 20,000 of them available right now on ImaginePittsburgh.com,” said Dennis Yablonsky, CEO of the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce. “The unemployment rate here has been lower than the national average for the past four years running.”

Learn more about visiting the Pittsburgh region at www.VisitPittsburgh.com, career opportunities at www.ImaginePittsburgh.com, and investing in the region at www.PittsburghRegion.org.

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