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For Immediate Release

Statement from Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Regarding Pennsylvania 2010-2011 Fiscal Year Budget

(Pittsburgh – June 30, 2010) Under Pennsylvania’s 2010-2011 budget, announced yesterday by Governor Ed Rendell, state-wide library funding was once again reduced. Under the current budget state-wide library funding will be reduced by \$5.7 million to \$62.5 million, which represents a cut of 8.4% in total state funding. For Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh this would mean a potential reduction in funding of more than \$600,000, including funding for basic library aid and services provided by the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. This reduction comes on top of last year’s state budget impacts which cut funding for libraries by \$1.5 million.

“Together, with last year’s cut, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh is facing a cumulative annual impact that equates to a loss of more than \$2 million to its 2011 budget,” said Dr. Barbara K. Mistick, president and director of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. “This reduction amplifies the need for dedicated long-term sustainable funding for the system.”

Mistick added, “Additional funding cuts are devastating at a time when people are using libraries more than ever before and relying on the libraries for critical services such as applying for jobs and unemployment and finding health care and social services referrals.”

Andrew Carnegie did not endow the Library; rather, he expected the community through public and private funding to provide for its annual operations. Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh is facing a multi-million dollar deficit over the next five years if the gap between increasing costs and declining revenues, including the state’s budget cuts, cannot be closed. As the Library struggles to find new sources of dedicated funding future reductions will have a further negative impact, especially in a difficult year in which library operations are being subsidized by stop-gap funding by the City of Pittsburgh.

The Library continues to work on finding a solution for sustainable long-term funding and invites the public to weigh in on this pressing issue. A second round of community workshops to identify ideas and opportunities for the Library’s future are scheduled for July 17, 18 & 19. Please visit www.carnegielibrary.org/future for workshop locations and for ways to support Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.

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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.