



**Contact:**  
Suzanne M. Thinnes  
Communications Manager  
4400 Forbes Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
412.578.2458 (office)  
412.491.6889 (cell)

**For Immediate Release**

## **Repairs Slated to Begin on Allegheny Regional Building**

**(PITTSBURGH, PA – November 14, 2006)** Repairs are slated to begin this week at 5 Allegheny Square, the building housing Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Allegheny Regional. As owner of the building, the City of Pittsburgh approved a construction plan to repair the roof and HVAC systems after a lightning strike on April 7 caused significant damage to the building. Once construction begins, repairs are estimated to take between six and eight months. The repairs will allow the city to explore alternative reuses for the building. As previously announced, the Library does not plan to reopen in that space and is working to build a new library on the North Side.

Mascaro Construction, a local company known for its expertise in repairing historical buildings, will oversee the \$2 million project. During construction, the building's additional two tenants, the Hazlett Theatre and a senior center operated by the City of Pittsburgh, will not be affected by the repairs and are expected to continue regular operations. The Library has also taken steps to protect its collection during construction.

On Friday, April 7, 2006 at approximately 8:15 p.m. the building, in which the library operates, was struck by a lightning bolt that caused a part of the facility's clock tower to explode sending large debris into the building's roof and clock tower structure. The lightning strike damaged the steeple and roof of the building resulting in damage to major components of the air handling systems and roof structure. No one was injured during the incident and none of the library's materials or computers were damaged.

####

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

"Free to the People" since 1895

Established as a public trust in 1895, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh serves the citizens of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County with a distinguished history of leadership among the country's great public libraries. Through its Main Library, 17 neighborhood locations and the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh is the region's most visited asset, welcoming over 2.2 million customers last year. Each year the Library provides more than 6,000 free programs, classes and other learning and training opportunities that are tailored to meet the dynamic and diverse needs of people living in Western Pennsylvania.