COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY

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County Executive

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County Holds Ceremonial Ribbon Cutting, Open House for 542 Fourth Avenue

PITTSBURGH – Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, County Council President John DeFazio, Council Vice President Nick Futules, and Council Members John Palmiere and Bob Macey were joined today by Dr. Karen Hacker, Director of the Health Department, members of the Board of Health and staff of the Allegheny County Health Department in a ceremonial ribbon cutting and open house at 542 Fourth Avenue. The event celebrated the completion of the work renovating the former Morgue building for use by the Allegheny County Health Department’s administration offices.

In May 2010, Apostolou Associates was hired to design a renovation of 542 Fourth Avenue. The first phase was selective interior demolition of walls and ceilings, removal of the existing plumbing, electrical and HVAC systems, and asbestos remediation. Micropiles, structural steel and foundations were installed to provide additional support. Framing was installed for a new second floor office space in the building chapel area. In July 2013, work began on the second phase of the project which included work required to bring a 113-year-old structure up to current fire, electrical, plumbing and fire safety codes.

The renovation created over 31,000 sq.ft. of office space for a building occupancy of 130 employees. Work included the installation of over 300 sprinklers, over 10,000 feet of electrical wiring, over 10,000 pounds of galvanized ductwork, a new heating and chilling system, and over 3,000 feet of piping for hot and cold water supply. Additionally, 47 doors were either refinished or installed and over 50,000 sq. ft. of walls were painted.

The County elected to have the marble flooring remain in the lobbies and conference room, even with imperfections, to maintain some of its history. The grand staircase, while altered, maintained the existing marble steps and brass railings. Original stained glass windows were repaired on the newly constructed second floor addition to the chapel area. Millwork resulted in new enclosures of the grand stairwell required for a dedicated fire rating exit of the building. The HVAC system, running on PACT steam, added a new feed directly from the County Office Building. The new office space has state-of-the-art audio/visual capabilities, full wireless connectivity, and a main conference room large enough to accommodate public meetings.

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