



THE PITTSBURGH G-20 PARTNERSHIP



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pittsburgh G-20 Partnership Offers Contingency Planning Resources to Regional Businesses in Preparation for September 24-25, 2009 Summit Downtown

(PITTSBURGH – July 28, 2009) The Pittsburgh G-20 Partnership, a public-private partnership of organizations that are working together to welcome the world to Pittsburgh during the G-20 Pittsburgh Summit on September 24-25, 2009, today offered contingency planning resources to regional businesses in preparation for the event.

“We know that there will be several dignitaries with motorcades traveling to downtown on September 24 and 25, which will cause temporary traffic inconveniences,” said City Public Safety Director Michael Huss. “Detailed information on how exactly this high-level meeting may affect transportation in the region and daily business operations downtown may not be decided upon until very close to the actual event, so it’s important that businesses prepare for these disruptions now.”

The non-profit Pittsburgh Regional Business Coalition for Homeland Security (PRBCHS), initially founded to assist businesses with emergency management planning, is providing several planning tools to help businesses improve upon or develop a business continuity plan in advance of the summit.

“In Allegheny County, and across our region, we often work with PRBCHS to engage our business community on a variety of public safety issues. As we move forward to help our community host a successful G-20 Summit, I encourage businesses of all sizes to take advantage of the resources and services available to build a contingency and continuity plan,” said Allegheny County Emergency Services Chief Bob Full.

PRBCHS will continue serving as a key connection between the business community and PA Region 13 public safety providers. Its Web site, www.pittsburghcoalitionforsecurity.org, will focus on providing businesses with easy and informative planning resources such as inventory forms and basic surveys to identify how their employees commute to work. PRBCHS staff will be available to the business community to answer questions regarding planning for business disruptions.

In the coming weeks, the G-20 Partnership will continue to provide resources to assist regional businesses in continuity planning including guidelines on employee transportation planning and having communication networks in place to disseminate late-breaking information.

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“It’s always good business practice to have a business continuity plan,” said Catherine DeLoughry, executive director of the Pittsburgh G-20 Partnership. “As we launch this process, we will encourage everyone to take a second look at their day-to-day business operations so they are prepared for temporary changes. For instance, ‘How do my employees get to work, and if they drive, where do they park their cars?’”

Public Safety Director Michael Huss will also soon be meeting with downtown businesses, residents and stakeholders to answer any questions they may have. Letters will go out to downtown businesses and residents identifying their points of contact for all questions on preparation.

“The Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership has already been responding to continuity planning inquiries from local businesses. As the management entity for the Business Improvement District, our top priority will be to provide up-to-date information so businesses can make the most informed decisions regarding their operations on those two days,” said Michael Edwards, president and CEO of the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership.

“In addition to the Convention Center Downtown, it is also important to remember that businesses and organizations located in the Airport area will also be affected while dignitaries are being transported,” said Sally Haas, executive director of the Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce. “Our Chamber and others throughout the region will be encouraging our members to have a contingency plan and to take advantage of the resources announced today,” said Haas.

Access more information on business contingency planning at www.pittsburghcoalitionforsecurity.org.

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The **Pittsburgh G-20 Partnership** (www.pittsburghG20.org) is a public-private partnership of organizations throughout the Pittsburgh region that have come together to welcome the world to Pittsburgh during the G-20 Summit on September 24-25, 2009. Chaired by Allegheny County Executive Dan Onorato and City of Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, the Partnership provides time, talent and resources to assure a welcoming, clean and green event and showcase Pittsburgh's economic, environmental and quality of life transformation.

The **Pittsburgh Regional Business Coalition for Homeland Security (PRBCHS)** (www.pittsburghcoalitionforsecurity.org) was formed on January 1, 2005 following encouragement by the Department of Homeland Security, and the foresight of a founding group of businesses, universities and organizations in the Pittsburgh region. PRBCHS is a nonprofit, public/private partnership dedicated to assisting businesses in Western Pennsylvania prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural disasters, technological disasters, or terror attacks. The PRBCHS also serves as a vital link between the public and private sectors in our region and their pursuit of common goals and mutual assistance.