



# DOUGLAS SHIELDS

PRESIDENT, PITTSBURGH CITY COUNCIL



## Media Advisory

### Council President Shields Decries Decision to Close Hazelwood Library

*“I find this to be heartbreaking,” said Jim Richter, long-time Executive Director of the Hazelwood Initiative.*

Council President Doug Shields decried last night’s decision by the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh’s Board of Trustees to close the newly renovated Hazelwood branch calling it a devastating blow to children and a community at risk.

Noting the board invested over \$700,000 into this branch just a few years ago and more than 60,000 people used this library last year, Shields said, “This decision may seem to make fiscal sense to the Board who doesn’t live here, but is an inconceivable loss to this neighborhood. The library is at the heart of what community amenities remain in Hazelwood.”

Shields said he believes long-term solutions need to be established but urged the library system not to allow distressed communities to become collateral damage in a quest for sustainability.

“One of the most basic missions of the library is to provide for those who otherwise would not have access to resources. This decision seems to directly contradict that need in Hazelwood.”