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**DOWNTOWN PITTSBURGH LAUNCHES WIRELESS ACCESS TODAY  
Only U.S. City of Its Size Offering Free Wireless in Central Business District**

PITTSBURGH (September 13, 2006) – Starting today, Pittsburgh will offer two free hours of wireless Internet access to all who visit, work or live Downtown.

From the steps of the City-County Building, Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership President and CEO Michael Edwards officially activated wireless Internet access for the city's Central Business District/Golden Triangle, North Shore and Lower Hill District.

"Wireless Internet access gives Downtown residents, workers and visitors the chance to enjoy all Downtown has to offer by being able to log onto the Internet at a café, a restaurant, a park or even the football stadium," said Edwards. "It's our hope that being connected will give Downtown a greater sense of neighborhood, community and cohesiveness. "

The late Mayor Bob O'Connor was a leading advocate for the wireless initiative, and Edwards acknowledged O'Connor's role in today's announcement. "A product of private investment and visionary support of Mayor O'Connor, the wireless network is a fitting tribute to the leader whose renewed sense of energy and possibility has inspired new investment in the heart of our region," said Edwards.

According to Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, the economic impact of wireless Internet access for Pittsburgh's Downtown will be positive and long-term. "WiFi Downtown Pittsburgh makes Downtown a unique location for doing business. It will drive more visitors, residents and workers to the many attractions that Downtown has to offer," said Ravenstahl.

WiFi Downtown Pittsburgh, as the network will be called, is powered by US Wireless Online, a national owner and operator of wireless Internet broadband networks. The network can be accessed any time, outdoors, in the Central Business District, North Shore and Lower Hill District. Users simply click the wireless icon on their laptops or PDAs, select "WiFi Pittsburgh," launch the Internet browser and surf the Internet for two hours free.

Following two free hours of wireless Internet access, USWO will offer various service tiers including *US Wireless Online DayConnect™*, which provides usage at a higher bandwidth and can be purchased in increments of \$7.99 per day, \$14.99 per month or \$119.99 per year. *FreeConnect* users will be provided a minimum of 512 Kbps of bandwidth, while *DayConnect* users will receive 1 Mbps. *DayConnect* users also will benefit from VPN and other security encryption protocol support.

US Wireless Online has installed similar technology in Baton Rouge and Los Angeles. Timothy J. Pisula, Chief technology officer, US Wireless Online, said, "WiFi Downtown Pittsburgh has been designed from the ground up as a carrier grade Internet access system, utilizing nearly 60 access points within approximately two square miles. We are pleased to launch a network that provides ubiquitous outdoor coverage in the Central Business District that not only supports today's broadband Internet access needs, but is also designed to support future applications such as VoIP (voice over Internet protocol)."

In addition to its wireless Downtown component, WiFi Downtown will provide municipal benefits, including four secured mobile command units for the City of Pittsburgh's public safety use and will address digital divide issues by providing complimentary connections in partnership with Wireless Neighborhoods, an alliance of community and faith organizations committed to support children's education, promote economic development and address other social barriers.

WiFi Downtown Pittsburgh was funded by the Buhl Foundation, Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, Colcom Foundation, Grable Foundation, The Heinz Endowments, Hillman Foundation, Laurel Foundation, McCune Foundation, Mellon Financial Corporation and Richard King Mellon Foundation.

For more information on Wi Fi Downtown Pittsburgh, visit [www.DowntownPittsburgh.com](http://www.DowntownPittsburgh.com).