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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE THELMA LOVETTE YMCA FACILITY MOVES CLOSER TO CONSTRUCTION

Sale of 18 properties approved for construction of the Hill District facility

(PITTSBURGH) July 8 The Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) Board of Directors today approved the sale of 18 properties to the YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh for the development of The Thelma Lovette Family YMCA along Centre Avenue in the Hill District.

The YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh submitted a proposal in June 2008 to redevelop the vacant parcels into a 43,000 square foot facility. Fundraising for the project has been ongoing.

"The new facility will provide the Hill District neighborhoods with a vital, family-centered hub for social, physical and developmental activity, as well as continue the revitalization of the Centre Avenue corridor," said Mayor Luke Ravenstahl. "With a new arena, library, and soon to be YMCA and grocery store, we are rebuilding the Hill District and providing jobs and opportunities to its residents."

Part of the overall revitalization plan for the Hill District, the project includes both the renovation of the YMCA's existing Centre Avenue facility as well as the construction of a new full facility family branch, which will offer recreation, family support services, enrichment classes, child watch, and programs for youth and seniors. Specific features of the new center will include an indoor track, a gymnasium, aquatics center with a four-lane pool, a wellness center, multipurpose and senior space, a teen room, and a computer lab.

The YMCA will purchase the 18 properties from the URA for \$237,250. The URA may provide a grant in the coming months of up to this same amount to assist in development costs deemed to provide public benefits, such as sustainable building practices and the creation of green space. Total development costs are projected at \$11 million.

"Organizations like the YMCA provide critical care and physical health resources to families, children and residents of the Hill District," R. Daniel Lavelle, District 6 Councilman and URA Board member said. "These public private partnerships help form the solid foundation of support to our community. When we all work together, we are all better for it."

The YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh has had a presence in Pittsburgh's historic Hill District for more than 100 years, dating back to the early 1900's. The proposed new full service family branch will be named after Thelma Lovette, a lifetime Hill District activist.

Financing for the project has been committed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Governor Ed Rendell, Anonymous Foundation, Bank of NY Mellon, Federal Home Loan Bank, Heinz Endowment, Highmark Foundation, McCauley Foundation, and PNC Foundation. Design was completed by DRS Architects, Milton Ogot Architect, and H.F. Lenz Company with construction by P.J. Dick Corporation. Additional partners include Sustainable Pittsburgh, Hill

District Consensus Group, and One Hill Coalition.

Construction is anticipated to begin in fall 2010.

Additional items approved today by the URA Board of Directors include a \$650,000 grant agreement with the Pittsburgh Economic and Industrial Corporation to develop the Energy and Environmental Community Outreach Center in Larimer; a \$30,000 contract with Michael Baker Jr., Inc. to provide consultant services for the Federal North project; a \$250,000 sub-grant agreement with Manchester Citizens Corporation for the rehabilitation of vacant and foreclosed homes through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program and a \$10,000 contract with Neighbor Works Western Pennsylvania to coordinate an Employer Assisted Housing program for the City of Pittsburgh.

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The Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh (URA) is the City of Pittsburgh's economic development agency, committed to creating jobs, expanding the City's tax base and improving the vitality of businesses and neighborhoods. The URA achieves this mission by assembling, preparing and conveying sites for major mixed-use developments; and by providing a portfolio of programs that include financing for business location, relocation and expansion, housing construction and rehabilitation, and home purchases and improvements.