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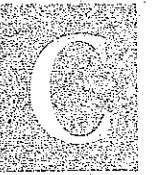
New Pittsburgh Courier

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Mayor shares encouraging future for Pittsburgh

by C. Denise Johnson
Courier Staff Writer

A capacity room greeted Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl Friday morning when he addressed the African American Chamber of Commerce of Western Pennsylvania for their monthly breakfast meeting forum.

After the obligatory pleasantries, the mayor dove straight into the meat of his update presentation (he last addressed the breakfast meeting in 2006 after succeeding the late mayor Bob O'Connor). In light of the global financial crisis, he started

off with the good news—commercial development and the white elephant of Fourth Street formerly known as G.C. Murphy being renovated into a new anchor for Downtown's Market Square. Ravenstahl gave kudos to the Urban Redevelopment Authority for shepherding the negotiation process while citing new construction projects such as the PNC tower at Fifth and Liberty as well as the North Shore casino.

The mayor also mentioned the new arena construction as a component of a rebuilt Hill District in conjunction with "an unprecedented community benefits agreement"

that includes a long-needed grocery store and jobs and workforce development.

"We're tremendously excited about development in the Hill District," he said.

Focusing on East Liberty's continuing renaissance and potential hotel development, Ravenstahl emphasized, "It's not just Downtown Pittsburgh, it's not just the North Side, it's not just the South Side; development is happening everywhere."

Again, addressing the national economy, the mayor said Pittsburgh

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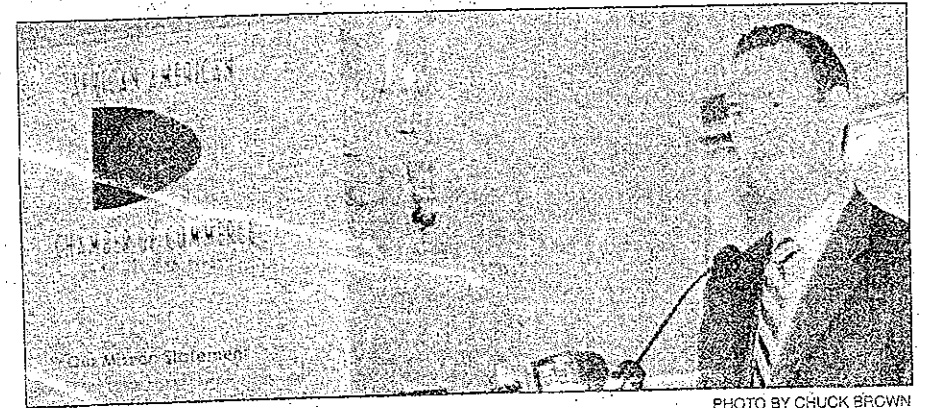


PHOTO BY CHUCK BROWN

FORUM—Mayor Luke Ravenstahl addresses chamber members at the Powerbreakfast.

Chamber to celebrate 10th anniversary

In honor of its 10 years of operation, the African American Chamber of Commerce of Western Pennsylvania will welcome its charter members and corporate sponsors for its 10th anniversary celebration Oct. 28 at the Frick Art & Historical Center at 5 p.m.

The evening will include a recognition of charter members from March 1994, who will discuss how the Chamber has impacted their businesses; a special tribute to those

corporate sponsors who have given their support; and remarks by Chairman Samuel Stephenson and President and CEO Doris Carson Williams. There will also be a special presentation of the Chamber book, "Building a Network of Relationships," which has been published by the University of Pittsburgh.

(For more information about the organization or event, call 412-392-0610 or visit www.aaccwp.com.)