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Pittsburgh’s ‘North Side is coming back’ . . . colorful, vibrant and proud

PITTSBURGH—Dan Rooney, chairman of the Pittsburgh Steelers and an NFL Hall of Famer, dons a historian’s hat for his new book with Carol Peterson—Allegheny City: A History of Pittsburgh’s North Side. A fascinating and often surprising story, it has just been published by the University of Pittsburgh Press.

“The North Side is coming back,” states Brian O’Neill in his foreword. “This book tells the Allegheny City/North Side history from the days of canals and cotton mills through the present day. Rooney, who grew up in the neighborhood, has joined with Ms. Peterson, a tireless scholar of Pittsburgh’s history, to coauthor this essential story.” O’Neill, a reporter for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, added, “If you have any interest in the way American cities evolved—and if you have a particular interest in Pittsburgh—this is the book for its largest section, the North Side.”

Allegheny City, known today as Pittsburgh’s North Side, was the third-largest city in Pennsylvania when it was controversially annexed by the City of Pittsburgh in 1907. Rooney and Peterson have crafted a highly engaging history of the cultural, industrial, and architectural achievements of Allegheny City, from its humble beginnings to the present day. The volume features over 100 historic and contemporary photos.

Andrew E. Masich, president and CEO of the Senator John Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh, praised the book by saying, “Dan Rooney is a man of few words. When he speaks, it is best to listen. When he speaks about Pittsburgh’s North Side, listen carefully—there is much to be learned about the amazing history of Allegheny City and the evolution of an American community.”

Meg Cheever, president and CEO of the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, agreed: “This book is an invaluable reference tool for anyone interested in Pittsburgh. It is a serious, thoroughly researched history with a wealth of fascinating detail.”

Rooney recently retired from the post of United States Ambassador to Ireland after nearly four years there. He is the author of Dan Rooney: My 75 Years with the Pittsburgh Steelers and the NFL. Peterson is an architectural historian who specializes in the buildings, homes, and communities of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

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Allegheny City: A History of Pittsburgh’s North Side, by Dan Rooney and Carol Peterson, is published by the University of Pittsburgh Press.

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