



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 7, 2024

## **Statement from Rich Fitzgerald, SPC Executive Director and Former Allegheny County Executive, on the Passing of Jim Roddey, Former Allegheny County Executive**

“It is with great sadness that I learned about the passing of Jim Roddey this evening. Jim helped to usher in the County’s new government in 2000 and served our community in so many ways. From his philanthropic efforts to improving our economic climate, the City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, and all of Southwestern Pennsylvania was made a better place to work and live because of his public service.

Having been a native son of the South, he never lost his accent but he became a true black and gold Pittsburgher. From his hard work ethic to his tenacious spirit—he embodied the values of our region.

While we sometimes disagreed on political issues, for me personally, he became a mentor and sounding board when I became the County Executive. He was always available for me, and gave advice that was sound and rooted in what he believed would benefit county residents.

We all knew Jim had a wonderful sense of humor. He always had a witty joke, often times at his own expense—and had the ability to captivate an audience like few do. I am sure that he is making angels laugh this evening.

I know I join many in saying that we want to thank Jim and his family for their years of sacrifice and service to our region, and we will be ever grateful. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.”

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