



## NEWS RELEASE From Mayor Dean DePiero

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### PARMA AMONG THE BEST CITIES IN AMERICA TO RAISE YOUR KIDS

**(PARMA)** – *BusinessWeek* magazine has ranked Parma as one of the best cities in America in which to raise children. In Ohio, Lakewood was ranked first in the category with Parma and Strongsville sharing runner-up honors.

“I think it says a lot about the quality of life benefits that we offer to all residents and families, especially to the young people in our community,” said Parma Mayor Dean DePiero. “City services and recreation are top notch, and there’s no doubt Parma ranks with the best cities in the country when you add a low crime rate, quality schools, spacious parks and affordable housing.”

*BusinessWeek* has ranked the quality of U.S. cities for the past four years. When it comes to raising children, Tinley Park, IL, located near Chicago, ranked number one.

The magazine states the criteria gave the greatest weight to affordability, safety, and school test scores. Towns with populations above 45,000 and median incomes between \$40,000 and \$125,000 were considered for the top cities list. *BusinessWeek* also considered the cultural grain of the communities when picking top towns - meaning diverse cities with parks, theaters, and other amenities were given high marks.

“Parma has a friendly atmosphere generated by a diverse cultural population,” said Mayor DePiero. “We also put a big emphasis on job growth and low taxes, creating an attractive destination for parents looking to give their kids a strong community and a good education with modest financial means. In Parma, you get more bang for your buck.”

*BusinessWeek* compiled its Best Cities list with the help of OnBoard Informatics, a residential lifestyle research firm which measures the living and working qualities of states and cities based on urban data and community consulting.

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