



NEWS RELEASE

From Mayor Dean DePiero

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, May 7, 2009

Contact: Jack P. Marschall
(440) 885-8181 or (216) 346-9935 (cell)

PARMA ALERTS RESIDENTS OF DOOR TO DOOR SOLICITATION

(PARMA) – The City of Parma Law Department is alerting residents to be aware of groups or individuals soliciting donations in area neighborhoods. The warning follows complaints by residents who are told the solicitations have been approved by the Parma Law Director.

"Organizations have a right to solicit door-to-door," said Parma Law Director Timothy Dobeck. "The city, however, does not give permission to or sanction any organization or group to solicit donations from our residents."

The City of Parma was one of the first in Greater Cleveland to adopt a Do Not Knock registry. Residents can join the registry by going online to the city's website or coming to Parma City Hall and filling out a form. The website address for the City of Parma is www.cityofparma-oh.gov.

"We understand there are well-intentioned groups in all cities collecting money for a good cause," said Parma Mayor Dean DePiero. "The reality is that in many cases, residents don't want strangers walking around on their property. They simply want their privacy, and they don't want anyone whom they don't know knocking on their door – for any reason."

According to Parma City Ordinances, no peddler shall peddle within the city, unless he or she is the holder of a valid license. Any person wanting a license shall obtain an application from the office of the Director of Public Safety, and shall submit the completed application (detailing personal information and identification.)

The resident's name and address will then be added to the Parma Do Not Knock registry. By law, peddlers and solicitors are required to first reference the registry before knocking. Registered residents can also post a sign decal conspicuously displayed in the front window or door of the home. The sign decal indicates whether peddlers, solicitors or both are unwelcome.

(more)

Enforcement is primarily through complaints or calls to the Parma Police Department by residents who have been wrongly disturbed at home by peddlers or solicitors in violation of the Ordinance. The Police will respond accordingly to such calls or complaints, and violators can be subject to both a fine and misdemeanor citation.

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