



PRESS RELEASE

From Mayor Dean DePiero

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Parma Mayor asks Ohio Municipal League to join legal fight Federal judge's ruling allows some sex offenders to live near schools

(Parma, OH) – In the wake of yesterday's ruling by Judge James Gwin in Akron U.S. District Court that the state can't block sex offenders from living near schools if they committed their crime before legislators enacted the ban in 2003, Parma Mayor Dean DePiero has asked the Ohio Municipal League to file an Amicus Brief in Support of overturning the judge's decision.

Judge Gwin found that the 1,000-foot restriction to be an unconstitutional punishment when applied to earlier offenses.

In the past, Parma has filed lawsuits against sexual offenders if they violate state residency laws by living within 1,000 feet of a school. The city has 35 sex offenders within municipal limits.

In his letter to the OML, DePiero said that yesterday's ruling should be "vigorously appealed" and called the decision "wrongheaded."

Parma and Summit County already have plans to appeal yesterday's ruling.

DePiero, who is second vice president of the OML, said the organization would give "additional weight" in appealing yesterday's ruling.

"We have been successful in removing sex offenders who have violated the state's residency restriction," DePiero said. "We have done so to keep our citizens and our children safe. This ruling jeopardizes the city's stance."

The Ohio Municipal League is a voluntary association of 798 cities and villages throughout Ohio. Founded in 1953, the League lobbies on behalf of cities and villages before the Ohio General Assembly and state agencies. The League also provides an extensive program of education for municipal officials, does research on municipal issues, and provides legal advocacy for municipalities.

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