

NEWS RELEASE From Mayor Dean DePiero

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Tuesday, October 28, 2008

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

Parma Auxiliary Police Beef-Up Patrols to Ensure Safety of Trick-or-Treaters

(PARMA) – The Parma Auxiliary Police Department is planning to add several vehicle and foot patrols Friday evening for a greater safety presence in the area on Halloween night.

Parma Mayor Dean DePiero will be riding along in one of the patrol cars to meet with and talk to residents and youngsters walking from door to door in the community.

"We are proud to have a solid safety record in our city of 82,000 residents," said Mayor DePiero. "We want to reassure our parents that the safety of their children on Halloween and every day of the year is our top priority."

The Parma Auxiliary Police will be canvassing all sections of the city while trick-or-treaters are out from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Parma Auxiliary Police Commander George Balasko says complementing the full-time, uniformed officers is what they do best.

"Added police presence means a lot to any community, especially on Halloween," said Commander Balasko. "We like to think of ourselves as a team in every sense of the word – with Mayor DePiero, Safety Director Greg Baeppler and Police Chief Daniel Hoffman leading the way. We're always available when they need us."

The Parma Auxiliary Police Department is comprised of more than 35 members who volunteer their time. Their duties include assisting Parma's full-time police officers with traffic control, directing traffic, providing security at city and school events, riding on patrol with regular officers and responding to emergency situations.

On average, the Auxiliary Police Officers donate nearly 11,000 hours of their time every year to the City of Parma. To learn more about Parma's Auxiliary Police Department, visit their website at http://www.cityofparmaauxpolice.com/.