

## **PRESS RELEASE From Mayor Dean DePiero**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Tuesday, March 11, 2008 Contact: Powell Caesar (440) 885-8181 or (216) 272-7338 (cell) Secondary Contact Mayor Dean DePiero (440)-885-8001

## CITY OF PARMA ANNOUNCES "HOMES FOR HEROES" PROGRAM

**Parma, OH –** Mayor Dean DePiero today announced that he will seek City Council approval for the creation of a first time home buyer down payment program aimed at assisting those persons serving in the armed services and safety forces. Known as the "Homes for Heroes" Program, those persons serving in an eligible employment position will receive a 3% grant, maximum \$5,000, for the purchase of their first home within the City of Parma. An initial budget of \$50,000 will be established with additional funding becoming available depending on need.

Eligible employment positions include those who serve in law enforcement, corrections and firefighting along with persons who are on active duty with any branch of the military or National Guard. Those who have been honorably discharged from military service will also be eligible.

"Parma has a long tradition of supporting the men and women who protect our country, our neighborhoods and our lives," stated Mayor DePiero. "What better way to demonstrate our respect and gratitude to these fine professionals than to assist them in purchasing a home in a community that truly cares about them? I also feel that this program will enhance the quality and safety of our neighborhoods. After all, having a firefighter, policeman or an emergency medical technician living next door would give most everyone an added sense of security."

The Homes for Heroes Program will be administered through the Community Services & Economic Development Department. For more information please contact the Department at 216-661-7372.

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