



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **From Mayor Dean DePiero**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **PARMA SAFETY FORCES ONLINE WITH HI-TECH RADIO COMMUNICATIONS**

**(PARMA)** – Parma Safety Forces have taken a giant leap in successfully utilizing state of the art technology to communicate on the same emergency radio frequency. For the first time, Parma Firefighters and Parma Police Officers are taking advantage of the city's leading edge P-25 communications system, the national standard for so-called interoperability.

"The bottom line is a quicker response to a crisis or any type of emergency," said Parma Safety Director Greg Baeppler. "The result will be saving lives – it's that simple."

The P-25 system allows Parma safety forces to talk with one another simultaneously while enroute to or on the scene of an emergency. In essence, the installation also allows other area communities a pathway to upgrade and connect their emergency radio systems in partnership with Parma.

"I have been very impressed with our progress," said Parma Police Chief Daniel Hoffman. "We're doing our best for the safety of our citizens and personnel in the City of Parma."

The Parma Fire Department was among the first in northern Ohio to implement interoperability in 2007. The cities of Brooklyn and Brooklyn Heights are continuing to upgrade their emergency radio infrastructure in order to become P-25 compliant.

"We are proud to take the lead role in this effort to increase safety, speed-up lines of communication and ultimately save lives," said Parma Mayor Dean DePiero. "It's a win-win because our system has the capability to benefit other communities throughout the region."

Discussion is now underway for the creation of a council of governments. The community-based leadership concept would give representation to those cities that partner with Parma's innovative P-25 communications system.

"We are working closely with several other communities," said Mayor DePiero. "This proposal has tremendous potential by providing first responders with high-tech tools to work as a regional team for police, fire and EMS calls. It's primarily a safety issue, not to mention a cost-cutting initiative by saving taxpayer dollars."

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