



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **From Mayor Dean DePiero**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Parma City Council Plans Big Honors for “Big Chuck” Schodowski**

**(PARMA)** – Parma Mayor Dean DePiero and members of Parma City Council will honor legendary Cleveland TV personality “Big Chuck” Schodowski prior to its meeting on Tuesday, January 20. The tribute to acknowledge “Big Chuck’s” years of service to the Greater Cleveland community and the television industry will begin at approximately 6:30 p.m.

“Chuck deserves all the credit in the world,” said Parma Mayor Dean DePiero. “He’s a former Parma resident who has donated thousands of hours to improving the quality of life for charity organizations and groups helping people of all ages in need. Chuck’s star status goes far beyond his TV notoriety – he has been a humble friend to all of northeast Ohio.”

Parma City Council will present “Big Chuck” with several fun items. They include a bag of ten brand new white socks courtesy of Dick’s Sporting Goods at Parmatown, a pink flamingo donated by Overnight Greetings, a Parma T-shirt donated by Parma Senior High School, kielbasa donated by State Road Meats, pierogi donated by the Ukrainian Center, strudel donated by Rudy’s Strudel Shop, cannoli donated by Colozza’s Bakery and a CD of The Greatest Polka Hits by Frankie Yankovic donated by Best Buy.

“I am so honored by Mayor DePiero and Parma City Council that it’s hard to put into words,” said “Big Chuck.” “Whenever we poked fun at Parma it was good natured, and that was the spirit in which it was enjoyed by our viewers. In fact, we always found it was the folks in Parma who appreciated the humor the most. I am honestly thrilled by this special commendation by the city.”

“Big Chuck” was recently in the Parma Christmas Parade and appeared at Parmatown Mall’s Borders Express to sign copies of his popular new book, “Big Chuck! My Favorite Stories from 47 years on Cleveland TV.” “Big Chuck” estimates he wrote 2,000 skits during his career at channel 8, creating bits for Soul Man, Mr. Mean, the Kielbasa Kid, Ben Crazy, Parma Place and more before he retired last year.

(more)

“Big Chuck” also wrote scripts for “Parma Place,” a spoof on the soap opera “Peyton Place,” and was responsible for the polka music that played every time Ernie “Ghoulardi” Anderson said, “Paaarr-mma?”

In addition to Anderson, “Big Chuck” also teamed with Bob Wells, “Hoolihan the Weatherman,” to create the *The Hoolihan and Big Chuck Show*. Jeweler John Rinaldi later joined Chuck to continue the broadcast, renamed *The Big Chuck and Lil’ John Show*.

In December 2006, Chuck Schodowski announced his retirement. As part of his farewell, TV8 aired an hour-long retrospective, *Big Chuck and Lil’ John: The End of an Era*. This also marked the end of the *Big Chuck & Lil’ John Show*, with the last regular episode being broadcast on June 16, 2007.

“Big Chuck” remains one of Cleveland’s most popular and recognizable TV personalities even in retirement.

(\*Note: *White Socks Optional*)

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