



PRESS RELEASE

From Mayor Dean E. DePiero

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Designed to let residents see how law enforcement works...

Parma will implement a “Citizens’ Police Academy”

(Parma) – Parma City Council last night (March 5), at the urging of Mayor Dean DePiero, entered legislation that would create a Citizens’ Police Academy to offer residents insights into how police officers perform their duties and how the department serves Ohio’s seventh largest municipality.

The creation of such a program was recommended by an independent Blue Ribbon Commission which was authorized by DePiero to examine how the City could work more effectively, both internally and externally. The Commission’s report was released last month.

Across the country, many police departments have initiated Citizens’ Police Academies to promote understanding and support for police departments from the communities they serve.

“This program will create a nucleus of well-informed citizens who will possess greater insight into police practices and services,” DePiero said. “Graduates can then share their knowledge and experience with their neighbors and friends as opportunities arise.”

“The Citizens’ Police Academy is being implemented to enable citizens and our officers to interact with each other,” DePiero explained. “It also will provide the opportunity for residents to get an “up close and personal” look at what officers do and how the department is operating under new leadership.”

The City of Cleveland already has a Citizens’ Police Academy which is a 24-hour course over an eight week period. Parma will determine its courses and class length after legislative passage by City Council.

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