



NEWS RELEASE From Mayor Dean DePiero

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PARMA WALKABOUT IS ALL ABOUT SAFETY

(PARMA) – The City of Parma has its own version of the Australian Walkabout. But the tradition in Ohio’s seventh largest city is in stark contrast to the wilderness of the famed Outback. Parma’s Walkabouts are all about safety and awareness.

For the past three years, Parma officials have been walking the walk, literally, in an up close and personal neighborhood safety program started in 2007 by Mayor Dean DePiero in cooperation with the Safety Director, Parma Police, Parma Auxiliary Police and members of Parma City Council.

“We tell our residents how to keep their streets safe while hearing about their concerns firsthand,” said Mayor DePiero. “People tell it like it is, and quite frankly, discussions like this are both enjoyable and invaluable.”

The door-to-door routine began again last month and continues every Wednesday evening through mid July – weather permitting. The aim is to talk with neighbors in all nine Parma wards. Each team consists of either the mayor, a member of city council, Parma Safety Director Greg Baeppler, Police Chief Daniel Hoffman and several police officers. A police car cruises the streets targeted during the 90 minute Walkabout.

Folks like long-time resident Laverne Colombo have been right at home on Gabriella since 1956. “I think this is wonderful,” said Colombo. “I like the one on one with the city officials. It shows they don’t just sit behind a desk all day, and I believe they are truly interested in our safety and whatever gripes we may have.”

“I would say the Walkabouts are a fantastic way for the safety forces, the administration and council to reach out to residents in a unified way,” said Ward One City Councilwoman Mary Galinas. “We demonstrate that we are working together to keep Parma one of the safest city in the country – and communication is key.”

“In all honesty, this is something we enjoy doing – we look forward to it,” said Mayor DePiero. “Time is one of our most valuable commodities. Spending time with your neighbors, sharing good information and hearing their concerns is why we’re here. It makes the Safety Walkabout well worth the effort.”

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