



NEWS RELEASE From Mayor Dean DePiero

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CHARTER SCHOOL JOBS TO REMAIN IN PARMA, EXPANSION PLANNED

(PARMA) – Parma Mayor Dean DePiero is pleased to announce that Constellation Schools, LLC has purchased the former Pat Catan building at 1644 Snow Road to house its administrative offices. The deal retains 48 full time jobs with an additional 8 full-time jobs planned over the next 5 years.

“It’s an ideal solution to a complex problem,” said Mayor DePiero. “The Pat Catan building was unappealing to retailers because of its limited visibility to Snow or Broadview Roads. But office space use is perfect, and the jobs going there can only enhance the business of surrounding retailers and restaurants.”

The planned \$375,000 in building improvements will in part be financed through a low interest Commercial Revolving Loan granted by the City of Parma. Currently located in the former Schaaf Junior High School at 5983 W. 54th, expanding enrollment has pressed the need for additional classroom space, necessitating the relocation of non-teaching staff. Enrollment for the 2010-11 school year is expected to surpass 580 students.

Constellation Schools Executive Director Gerald Preseren and Parma City Council President Charles Germana discussed the impending predicament during a Chamber of Commerce function. “There was a distinct possibility that they would move to a suitable space in Brooklyn,” said Germana. “We had to find 14,000 square feet of affordable space fast.”

According to Community Services/Economic Development Director Erik Tollerup, the city’s Commercial Revolving Loan is an invaluable tool to economic redevelopment. “Having the ability to loan money at a 2-3% interest rate in this economic climate is a lifeline for small business,” said Director Tollerup. “The pool of money is part of our annual Community Development Block Grant allocation from the Department of Housing & Urban Development. This \$80,000 loan will be our largest ever, and likely our most successful to date.”

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“Our Economic Development tools and approach to job creation and retention have touched every level of business,” added Mayor DePiero. “There is definitely reason for optimism. I am happy to say we will have another major announcement concerning local job retention within the month.”

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