



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **From Mayor Dean DePiero**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Contact: Jack P. Marschall**  
**(440) 885-8181 or (216) 346-9935 (cell)**

## **PARMA OBSERVES DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH**

**(PARMA)** – The City of Parma is observing Domestic Violence Awareness Month with the help of the Parma Law Department and the city’s Victim’s Advocate Office. Parma City Council is expected to pass a formal resolution tonight supporting Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

“We as a community can never do too much when it comes to helping the victims of domestic violence,” said Parma Mayor Dean DePiero. “Awareness leads to being pro-active in working to solve what has now become a nationwide crisis.”

The city is urging residents to take part in Purple Light Nights throughout the month of October. Advocates for the victims of domestic violence say the purple lights on porches of homes and outside local businesses is a subtle reminder that the problem affects all communities across the country.

“Domestic violence touches families in all walks of life,” said Parma Domestic Violence Victim’s Advocate Sherry Purge. “Our efforts in Parma are similar to those in many other cities – helping the victim through the criminal justice system. We make the unknown a little easier for them to understand at a desperate time in their life.”

According to the Cleveland Domestic Violence Center, one out of every four American women (26 percent) report that they have been physically abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives. And 30% of Americans say they know a woman who has been physically abused by her husband or boyfriend in the past year.

“If it becomes an emergency, just call 9-1-1,” said Sherry Purge. “It could save your life.”

Parma’s Domestic Violence Victim’s Advocate can be reached at 440-887-7400 (ext. 7413). The Cleveland Domestic Violence Center’s 24 Hour Helpline is 216-3911-HELP (4357).

Heinen’s Supermarkets throughout Greater Cleveland are selling purple light bulbs for \$1.99.

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