



NEWS RELEASE From Mayor Dean DePiero

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FEDERAL AND STATE GRANTS MEANS GOOD NEWS FOR THE CITY OF PARMA

(PARMA) – Several awards from federal grants under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) are making available sizeable funding to the City of Parma.

The stimulus bill is providing Parma with nearly \$7 million in grants for sanitary sewer projects to be administered by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. More than half the amount will be in the form of grant funds through the ARRA, and the remainder will be through low interest loans for project costs in order to reduce assessments to residents.

“Cities everywhere are competing for federal grant money being provided by the federal stimulus package,” said Parma Mayor Dean DePiero. “We are pleased with the dollars coming to our community. The funding will make a huge difference in strengthening our infrastructure, our safety forces and energy efficiency programs in the future. We have been aggressive at going after these vital dollars.”

In addition, the City of Parma has been designated for \$715,300 from U.S. Dept of Energy for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant, \$100,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice for purchasing technology and other supplies for the police department and \$77,000 from the Ohio Department of Public Safety to hire two dispatchers for 13 months each (75% of total cost). Separate monies have been set aside for an additional \$264,000 toward Community Development Block Grants and \$117,000 for the Parma Public Housing Agency (PPHA).

The ARRA is primarily crafted to create jobs and offer tax incentives to stimulate the nation’s economy. In all, nearly \$8 billion is being distributed to municipal programs around the country.

The City of Parma has also received additional funding through federal and state grants that were outside of the Stimulus Bill. A police officer will be hired through a grant from the Ohio Department of Public Safety, and a grant-funded regional dispatch feasibility study was recently completed funded 100% via a grant from the Ohio Department of Development. The federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program has provided \$1.6 million for Parma to use to acquire and demolish some problem properties.

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“Our hope is that the federal funding will keep our community on track by offsetting the loss of tax revenue – an issue facing every city across the country,” said Mayor DePiero. “The stimulus money keeps us in the race to maintain city services and programs. To say the funding will have a positive impact in this economic climate is an understatement. It gives us and other cities the breathing room we so desperately need.”

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