

NEWS RELEASE From Mayor Dean DePiero

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CITY OF PARMA APPROVES "HOMES FOR HEROES" PROGRAM

(**Parma**) – Parma City Council last night approved a unique first time home buyer down payment program aimed at assisting those serving in the armed services and safety forces. The action comes one week before the nation's Memorial Day observation.

Known as the "Homes for Heroes" Program, individuals serving in an eligible employment position will receive a 3% grant, maximum \$5,000, for the purchase of their first home within the City of Parma. An initial budget of \$50,000 has been established with additional funding becoming available depending on need. Several prospective homeowners have already applied, and one veteran U.S. Navy Reservist has been approved.

"Parma has a long tradition of supporting the men and women who protect our country, our neighborhoods and our lives," says Parma Mayor Dean DePiero. "What better way to demonstrate our respect and gratitude to these fine professionals than to assist them in purchasing a home in a community that truly cares about them?"

Eligible employment positions include those who serve in law enforcement, corrections and firefighting along with persons who are on active duty with any branch of the military or National Guard. Those who have been honorably discharged from military service are also eligible.

"I also feel that this program will enhance the quality and safety of our neighborhoods. After all, having a firefighter, policeman or an emergency medical technician living next door would give most everyone an added sense of security."

The Homes for Heroes Program is being administered through the Community Services & Economic Development Department. For more information please contact the Department at 216-661-7372.