



NEWS RELEASE From Mayor Dean DePiero

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

MAYOR DEPIERO TALKS POLITICS WITH VICE-PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

(PARMA) – Parma Mayor Dean DePiero told it like it was for residents in his community during a 45-minute conference call with Vice-President Joe Biden. The call included mayors and county administrators from a half-dozen cities around the country. The vice-president said he wanted to hear from local, frontline leaders on the implementation of federal stimulus grant money.

“He was very cordial and extremely interested in hearing about any issues or problems we might be having with both receiving and using the federal stimulus grants,” said Mayor DePiero. “It was an open dialogue that the vice-president said is designed to ensure everyone in Washington is on the same page in making the federal stimulus grant programs a success. I told him so far, so good, and that we are appreciative of the federal funding projects designated for Parma.”

Mayor DePiero said the common thread for everyone was gratitude for Mr. Biden’s willingness to work closely with local communities in order to receive their portion of the government’s \$800 billion stimulus grant money as soon as possible. The City of Parma has been awarded more than \$1.6 million for four separate water pollution control projects. The money will be used primarily for U.S. EPA mandated projects, replacing existing septic tanks to sanitary sewer systems in the West Creek Watershed.

“The vice-president gave us names and direct line phone numbers in the event we run into any delays, problems or roadblocks in receiving the funds,” said Mayor DePiero. “He said the goal is to make sure the money quickly gets to where it’s supposed to go. I was honored to be on the call list.”

The others taking part included Abilene, Texas Mayor Norm Archibald; Durham, North Carolina Mayor William V. "Bill" Bell; Hampton, Virginia Mayor Molly Ward; Santa Fe County Commissioner Harry B. Montoya of New Mexico, and Pierce County Executive Pat McCarthy of Washington state.

(more)

Parma has also received an additional Community Development Block Grant allocation of about \$264,000. This separate allocation is designed to target a community improvement project or projects that will immediately benefit low to moderate income homeowners. It is also geared to create job retention and creation opportunities for low to moderate income workers.

In addition, Parma will receive about \$96,000 from a federal Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG). The money is intended to assist the following programs: Law enforcement, prosecution and courtroom, prevention and education, community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, planning, evaluation and technology improvements and crime victim and witness projects.

Mayor DePiero says the City of Parma has also applied for a federal grant offered by the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office. Up to \$1 billion in grant funding is available for the hiring and rehiring of additional career law enforcement officers on the state and local level.

David Agnew, deputy director of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, contacted the mayor about participating in the conference call.

Vice-President Biden is conducting the weekly conference calls with local officials from the state to the city level to check in with them about the stimulus plan as part of his duties assigned by President Obama.

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