NO LAYOFFS FOR PARMA SERVICE WORKERS

(PARMA) – The City of Parma Service Department employees will be placed on a 35 hour work week starting September 4, preventing anticipated layoffs in the fall. The reduction of hours will help attain the necessary economic cuts to help Parma bridge a $2.4 million budget gap while preventing the layoff 50 of its 89 service workers starting in October.

"We were able to determine the group's existing labor agreement allows us flexibility to reduce work schedules without a vote by the union," said Parma Mayor Dean DePiero. "In essence, the hourly reduction means cutting costs while keeping city employees on the job. It has been a difficult process for everyone, but I am pleased that we were able to get to a point where no one had to face a layoff."

The Service Department workers are represented by the United Steelworkers of America. The city had planned to lay off about 50 Service Department workers in the fall with the intention of bringing them back to work in December.

The administration reached temporary cost-cutting deals with nine of the city's ten bargaining units. Non-union Parma employees have been taking one unpaid furlough day every two weeks since early June. Non-union furlough days will total 16 days by the end of the year.

Mayor DePiero said the reduction of tax revenue in Parma is similar to the same economic crisis facing other cities around the country. He says the budget battle is a daily fight to keep the City of Parma economically strong.

"This alternative route to layoffs is beneficial to the city and the families of the service workers," said Mayor DePiero. "I am mandated by the state of Ohio to have a balanced budget. That goal will be met as I strive to keep all our employees working to maintain and deliver quality services to our residents."

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