



NEWS RELEASE From Mayor Dean DePiero

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PARMA ANNOUNCES NEW CUYAHOGA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BRANCH BUILDING

(PARMA) – The City of Parma and Cuyahoga County Public Library (CCPL) are proposing to move forward with the consolidation of CCPL’s Parma-Ridge (5850 Ridge Road) and Parma-South (7335 Ridge Road) branches into a new, single-story facility. Under the proposal, the new Parma city center branch would be constructed directly east of City Hall between Ridgewood Road and Powers Boulevard. At 45,000 square feet, it will be the largest branch in the CCPL system. CCPL and the city are currently engaged in discussion of the land transfer. As part of the proposal, the Parma-Ridge Branch, which is owned by CCPL, will be deeded to the City of Parma. The city owns the Parma-South Branch.

The CCPL Board of Trustees approved consolidation of the two branches in June 2010 as part of a Facilities Master Plan (the Plan). The Plan is comprised of thirteen priority building, renovation and relocation projects. It is part of a long-term financial plan that will reduce CCPL’s operating costs and sustain its operations. The implementation of the Plan will not require CCPL to ask taxpayers for additional funds. The Plan also includes a \$7 million renovation and expansion of the Parma-Snow Branch (2121 Snow Road). CCPL expects to break ground on these projects in 2012. CCPL will continue to provide library service at its three current Parma branch locations until these projects are complete.

“This is an exciting project that will create a state of the art gathering place for our residents and folks from across the region,” said Parma Mayor Dean DePiero. “I have no doubt the new city center branch will generate a sharp increase in people traffic, producing unprecedented positive results for countless library users, local businesses and the City of Parma.”

“The new Parma branch will be the flagship branch of our library system and add to the synergy between City Hall, the Smallwood Activities Center, and Parma Community General Hospital,” said CCPL Executive Director Sari Feldman. “As this process moves forward we will continue to engage the community to ensure that the new branch offers features and services that reflect the needs of our customers.”

CCPL and the City of Parma will host a public meeting on Thursday, February 3rd at 6:00 p.m. in the Parma City Council Chambers, 6611 Ridge Road. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss possible features of the new Parma branch. Additional focus group meetings will be scheduled as the design process moves forward. **For more information, you can contact Robert J. Rua, CCPL Assistant Marketing Director at 216.749.9487 or 216.835.4602 (cell).**