NEWS RELEASE From Mayor Dean DePiero



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Friday, February 12, 2010 Contact: Jack P. Marschall (440) 885-8181 or (216) 346-9935 (cell)

PARMA TO HOST CAREER EXPO TO BOOST EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

(PARMA) -- The City of Parma is inviting the public to attend a special Career Expo March 18 at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center adjacent to Parma City Hall. Experts in the field of job training and retraining will be available to help unemployed and underemployed area residents gain new skills to help them reenter the workforce.

"My concern is that a certain segment of any community has individuals who do not have the skill sets to reenter this constantly changing economy," said Parma Treasurer Anthony Zielinski. "Our city's unemployment rate is more than 9%, but that does not take into account those who have been furloughed, workers who have gone from full-time to part-time and those individuals whose work schedules have been drastically reduced."

The Parma Career Expo will feature employment experts from Cuyahoga Community College, Parma City Schools Community Education, Bryant & Stratton, Polaris Career Center, Employment Connection Career Center and United Way 2-1-1.

"There are a lot of folks out there who are wondering, 'Where do I go from here?" said Parma Mayor Dean DePiero. "We want to stress this is not a jobs fair, but it is a great opportunity for people across the area to better understand the tools they will need and what's available to find a job and start a new career."

Treasurer Zielinski says the Career Expo will offer what many employees used to take for granted – a future.

"This is training and education for our neighbors and families to be successful in this new economy," said Zielinski. "The aim is to succeed – not only today, but also in the years to come."

The Parma Career Expo will be held on Thursday, March 18 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The Donna Smallwood Activities Center, 7001 W. Ridgewood Dr., is located behind Parma City Hall.