



NEWS RELEASE From Mayor Dean DePiero

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PARMA CANCELS 4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS

(PARMA) – In a continuing effort to cut spending, the City of Parma has cancelled its annual July 4th fireworks display at the western campus of Cuyahoga Community College.

“This is one of the toughest decisions I’ve had to make to cut costs because it impacts so many people in our community,” said Parma Mayor Dean DePiero. “When it’s all said and done, to spend thousands of dollars on fireworks and overtime when we are furloughing employees doesn’t make a whole lot of sense.”

The City of Parma cancelled fireworks on July 4th in 2009 for the same cost-cutting reasons. City employees, both union and non-union, are taking a total of 16 unpaid furlough days, or equivalent concessions, through the end of the year. In addition, some union members have agreed to concessions to save money. The Mayor and members of his administration are included in the furlough plan.

“Donations normally cover the cost of the fireworks – about \$30,000,” said Mayor DePiero. “The real issue is the additional cost of overtime holiday pay for police, fire and other city employees to ensure the safety of an event that draws several thousand people from northeast Ohio. That pushes our total cost anywhere from between \$40,000 to \$60,000. We simply cannot afford it, and we would never invite a large crowd into our community if there were any questions of adequate safety.”

The less costly Parma July 4th Parade *will* go on as scheduled on Saturday, July 3rd at 10:00 AM. Mayor DePiero says the parade incurs far less overtime and city expense than the workforce needed for safety and crowd control at the fireworks display.

“I know canceling the fireworks again this year is disappointing to our residents,” said Mayor DePiero. “And I’m disappointed, too. This was a tough call that I had to make in order to maintain a balanced city budget. The bottom line is we can’t spend money we don’t have.”

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