



NEWS RELEASE From Mayor Dean DePiero

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PARMA MAYOR SIGNS ANTI-POACHING AGREEMENT WITH CUYAHOGA COUNTY

(PARMA) – Parma Mayor Dean DePiero has signed an anti-poaching agreement with Cuyahoga County, a voluntary plan proposed by County Executive Ed FitzGerald to prevent cities from pursuing a business to relocate from another suburban community.

“This is an issue that must be addressed on a regional basis,” said Mayor DePiero. “Enticing a business to pick-up and move to another suburb will have a drastic economic impact on the city it’s leaving. We all lose if suburbs start competing against one another at the expense of their neighboring communities.”

Among other things, the agreement calls for suburbs to notify a company’s home community if it makes a move to relocate unless the business demands confidentiality. There is no commitment to tax-revenue sharing when a business relocates within the county, only that discussion is encouraged. Cities that sign on will be favored to receive money from a \$100 million economic development fund being created by the County Executive.

In all, 59 communities are eligible to sign the anti-poaching agreement but it is still unclear how many will join. Critics claim the anti-poaching pact is anti-business, and some question whether poaching has even been a problem here. Mayor DePiero says the problem is real and must be addressed.

“There is no doubt in my mind that suburbs have poached businesses from neighbors,” said Mayor DePiero. “In my opinion, the agreement creates a strong network that will make it easier for businesses to grow or move to Cuyahoga County. That becomes a win-win scenario and will only create more economic opportunities for Parma and our neighboring communities.”

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