



NEWS RELEASE From Mayor Dean DePiero

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

PARMA RECEIVES MILLION DOLLAR FEDERAL SAFETY FORCE GRANT

(PARMA) – Parma Mayor Dean DePiero has announced the Parma Fire Department has received a grant in excess of one million dollars from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The money will be used to hire and retain firefighters in the City of Parma. The formal announcement of the \$1,078,726 grant was made in Washington by U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH).

“This grant will go a long way in keeping our community safe and increase our safety force staffing,” said Mayor DePiero. “The money will enable us to hire nine additional firefighters in providing salaries, benefits and general equipment needs.”

The Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response program (SAFER) will allow the City of Parma to swear-in the first five firefighters previously screened and approved for duty. The ceremony will take place on Monday, March 21 at 11:00 a.m.

“The grant money will help us keep our commitment to full staffing of our emergency services,” said Parma Safety Director Gregory Baeppler. “Funding of this nature will be used to improve the ability of Ohio communities to respond to fires and fire-related hazards.”

The ultimate goal of the SAFER grant is to increase staffing, thereby making the Ohio communities, its residents and firefighters as safe as possible.

“The SAFER grant bolsters our level of preparedness,” said Parma Fire Chief John French. “In addition, the funds can be used for recruitment of quality individuals who may be interested in a career as a firefighter/paramedic. Without a doubt, this is a good day for Parma.”

Chief French credited Parma Firefighters David Higginbotham and John Conroy for writing a successful grant application in what he called an extremely competitive process.

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