



## NEWS RELEASE From Mayor Dean DePiero

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **PARMA RESUMES WEEKLY NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY WALKABOUTS**

**(PARMA)** – The City of Parma is ready to mobilize its annual Safety Walkabout program beginning Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> as the warm weather returns to northeast Ohio. The effort by police and city officials to educate and communicate one-on-one with area residents has now become a tradition in Ohio’s seventh largest city. The common thread is mostly common sense safety tips in keeping neighbors and family members safe throughout the summer and the entire year.

“The Walkabouts have proven to be both unique and tremendously beneficial,” said Parma Mayor Dean DePiero. “The weekly door-to-door chats with residents allow for some frank and important discussions about residential concerns. What we have created is a sharing of information in a casual but effective, old-fashioned approach.”

Parma has been walking the walk, literally, since the safety program was started in 2007 by Mayor DePiero. The mayor is joined in the weekly Walkabouts by Safety Director Greg Baeppler, Parma Police Chief Robert Miller, members of the Parma Police and Auxiliary Police Departments and Parma City Council members.

The first Walkabout will begin at 5:30 in Ward 2 which is represented by Councilwoman Debbie Lime. Gerald Avenue from Ridge Road to West 54<sup>th</sup> will be the targeted area, weather permitting.

“The project has proven to be a great success,” said Safety Director Greg Baeppler. “Most of the residents we meet have said they’re impressed our police and elected officials take time out of their personal schedules for the Walkabout program. It’s well worth the effort.”

The Parma Safety Walkabout will be scheduled Wednesday evenings through mid July. Police and city officials will canvass all nine wards in Parma at least once.

“The positive reaction we see generates important public participation,” said Mayor DePiero. “Creating that personal contact is necessary to maintain a clean, safe and secure city for everyone living and working in the City of Parma, and also for folks just stopping by to visit.”

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