



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **From Mayor Dean E. DePiero**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Tuesday, September 26, 2006**

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Authorized by Mayor DePiero with blessings of other elected officials...

### **Independent “Blue Ribbon” panel to address Parma’s future viability**

**(Parma)** – Faced with shrinking income tax revenues, increased expenses to provide municipal services, a dwindling population and a stagnant economy in northeast Ohio, Mayor Dean DePiero, with the full support of other elected Parma city officials, has authorized the formation of an independent Blue Ribbon Commission whose job it will be to make recommendations to insure Parma’s future financial stability and viability as a community.

The seven-member group which will be facilitated by Cleveland State University Urban Studies Professor Sy Murray includes:

- Rev. Todd A. Biermann-Pastor, Calvary Lutheran Church, Parma, OH
- Barry L. Franklin, C.P.A.- Parma Community General Hospital Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
- Thomas F. Jones-President and CEO of Marionette Consulting, Inc. and former Special Agent-in-Charge, Cleveland FBI Office
- David M. Nedrich-Communications Manager, General Motors Corporation, Parma Metal Fabrication Division
- Robin Darden Thomas-Chief Deputy Treasurer of Cuyahoga County
- Kevin Yaughner-President and Chief Operating Officer, Marc Glassman, Inc.

Before his appointment as a professor at CSU, Murray served as city manager for Cincinnati, Ann Arbor, Michigan and San Diego, California. He is an expert in municipal finances and governance and holds a Masters of Governmental Administration from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania.

The group will be asked to critically look at the City’s:

- Revenues and expenses
- Revenue enhancements
- Image and diversity
- Local tax rates and to,
- Review police department reforms initiated along with police staffing levels.

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“It is vitally important that we take stock as Ohio’s seventh largest city,” Mayor DePiero said. “This independent commission has been told to “let the chips fall where they lay” in reviewing these critical areas necessary to our viability as a municipality.”

In his charge to the Commission, DePiero said:

*“As a group independent of the Administration, you are asked to review the City’s operations and finances, and based on your findings; provide recommendations for moving Parma forward over the next several years. I believe Parma is, and hope that it will continue to be, a model for other inner-ring suburbs in Ohio and around the country.”*

The panel is expected to give their report to the city by January 15, 2007. Their recommendations and observations will be shared with Parma residents and businesses.

“This will be an independent and autonomous commission and we thank Mayor DePiero for his latitude,” Rev. Biermann stressed. Biermann said that aside from providing the group with information sought by the panel, Parma officials will not be involved in the decision making process.

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