



PRESS RELEASE

From Mayor Dean E. DePiero

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With State Issue 5 passing overwhelmingly in Nov. Election...

Parma Mayor wants State to enforce smoking ban NOW

(Parma) – Parma Mayor Dean DePiero said today that the voters of Ohio should not have to wait until June 2007 for the State of Ohio to enforce the no-smoking ban in public places as authorized by the electorate in last month’s General Election.

In a letter to Dr. J. Nick Baird, director of the Ohio Department of Health, DePiero pointed out that Ohio voters overwhelmingly passed State Issue 5 – a strict no-smoking ban in public places – and that voters should not have to wait for enforcement to begin.

“As director (of Health), it is your responsibility to act quickly to expedite this process,” DePiero said.

In addition, DePiero said that bar and restaurant owners deserve an enforcement mechanism since it impacts their businesses and livelihoods. He said the delay in enforcing the smoking ban puts these operations “in a state of flux” and without clear direction.

He said that the State of Ohio should have been ready to implement Issue 5 within 30 to 60 days of the measure’s passage.

DePiero is also asking outgoing Ohio Governor Bob Taft to issue an executive order to fully implement the smoking ban and put temporary rules in place.

“The June 7th deadline for formulating rules surrounding the smoking ban is far too long to begin enforcement of a provision that Ohioans have already voted up,” DePiero said. “It’s just not right. It’s not how government is supposed to work. When the people speak, their voice and vote should be heard and honored. It’s just that simple.”

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