



PRESS RELEASE

FROM THE OFFICE OF MAYOR MICHAEL P. BYRNE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PARMA HEIGHTS AWARDED TWELFTH CONSECUTIVE CDBG GRANT ***Teamwork Credited***

Parma Heights – The benefits of working as a team toward a common objective were made abundantly clear this month as the City of Parma Heights was awarded a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in the amount of \$150,000 for the third phase of the reconstruction of Ackley Boulevard.

The project will involve full-depth concrete replacement beginning at the intersection of Brookmere, east to the Parma border. The start date for the project will be announced shortly after the bidding process and grant guidelines specify that the project must be completed no later than September 30, 2013.

“The time frame for submission and completion upon grant award was extremely tight for this round. Our Department of Community and Economic Development and our Law Department, along with our City Engineer and City Council all came together to think outside the box and overcome obstacles to put the city’s project in the best possible light for evaluation,” explained Mayor Michael P. Byrne.

This year marks the twelfth consecutive year that the city has been able to successfully apply for funding from the CDBG program. According to Community and Economic Development Director Joseph E. Sebes, this round the process was unusual because the application section was shortened from months to weeks and the construction timeframe was similarly shortened from the usual eighteen month timeframe from award to completion down to four months from time of award. The city’s response was to pro-actively shave 2 to 3 weeks off the legislative process by passing legislation allowing the engineer to prepare specifications and bids immediately upon notice of award instead of the usual procedure where such legislation is passed after award, allowing the engineer to proactively survey the project and immediately holding the required public meeting. “We gave them as close to a “shovel-ready” project as possible,” Bryne stated.

Parma Heights Awarded Twelfth Consecutive CDBG Grant

CDBG dollars are Federal monies from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In Cuyahoga County, CDBG awards are made by the Cuyahoga County Executive with administration and monitoring done by the Cuyahoga County Department of Economic Development.

“I believe our city must be ever-vigilant to take advantage of every funding opportunity and make use of innovative ways to increase service to our residents. The awarding of this grant is a testament to our town’s commitment and willingness to be flexible to secure outside sources of funding,” said Byrne. The CDBG grant is the third grant the city has won to date in 2013. In March, the city was awarded a Recycling Awareness Grant in the amount of \$5,000 and a \$15,000 Project Clean Lake Grant.

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