CITY OF PARMA
DEAN DePIERO
MAYOR

6611 Ridge Road
Parma, OH 44129

Phone: 440-885-8001
Fax: 440-885-8172

August 10, 2007

Dear Resident,

Thank you for informing us of your difficulties during the severe rainstorm on Tuesday, August 7, 2007

I would like to compliment the Parma Police and Fire Departments, the Parma Police Auxiliary Unit, the Parma Service Department, the Red Cross and the volunteers of our Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) for their dedication in assisting afflicted residents immediately following the storm.

This letter is to let you know that the City is working to gather information about possible assistance for damages that you may have experienced. You may have heard that Governor Strickland has declared a disaster in Cuyahoga County which will make some State funding available through Cuyahoga County Job & Family Services.

The disaster declaration also requested that the Small Business Administration (SBA) come to the area to assess damage. The assessment occurred yesterday, and we are now awaiting word on whether residents will have access to low-interest SBA loans to pay for cleanup and to replace damaged belongings.

Cuyahoga County **did not** meet the threshold of damage that must be met before FEMA will offer assistance. Unfortunately, that means FEMA will not be providing funds to our residents.

The City offers some financial assistance through our Community Services and Economic Development Department. Details on the State, City, and SBA loan programs are attached.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation. We will keep you informed as updates become available from other governmental agencies.

Sincerely,

Mayor, Dean DePiero

Charles Germana, Council President

Mary Galinas, Councilwoman Ward 1

Sean Brennan, Councilman Ward 2

Nick Celebrezze Councilman Ward 3

Brian Day, Councilman Ward 4

Tom Regas, Councilman Ward 5

Larry Napoli, Councilman Ward 6

Kenneth Ramser, Councilman Ward 7

Scott Tuma, Councilman Ward 8

Roy J. Jech, Councilman Ward 9

City of Parma

The Community Services and Economic Development Department offers $150 reimbursement vouchers to residents 65 and over for home cleanup. All residents living in the house must be 65 or over and the home must be in the resident's name. Eligible residents should call (216) 661-7372 for more information. There are no income requirements and this money is available only for cleanup. Receipts from a contractor that has done the cleanup work must be provided.

After September 1, 2007 residents may apply for a grant program for seniors and low income residents that will help with structural repairs such as buckled flooring, damaged drywall, furnace/hot water tank replacements or repairs due to water damage. This is a maximum of $2,000 per homeowner, and requires a 50% contribution from the owner. Again, please note that this program is available to seniors and residents who would qualify under the income guidelines.

Information on the City of Parma programs is available by calling the Community Services and Economic Development Department at (216) 661-7372.

State of Ohio

Applications for State of Ohio assistance will be available at the Cuyahoga County Jobs and Family Services office in downtown Cleveland:

Virgil E. Brown Center
1641 Payne Ave., Room 520
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
Phone: 216-987-7000

1. People with incomes up to 200% of the federal poverty level are eligible for assistance (although this requirement is sometimes waived for certain circumstances, in accordance with the county's discretion)

2. People can apply for assistance at the County JFS office within the next 30 days

3. Up to $1500 in state funds can be awarded per household, but the county may choose to offer additional dollars

4. Elderly and disabled individuals who are not eligible for TANF assistance may be eligible for one-time cash assistance of up to $750.

Federal Government

If residents are able to access SBA low-interest loans application will be available through the SBA at Parma City Hall in the Council Chambers located at 6611 Ridge Road, Parma, OH 44129. They will be available from 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM Monday through Friday August 14 through at least Friday, August 24, and will be open at least one Saturday. Specific times will be announced.