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Contact: Lt. Dan Ciryak (216) 217-2040

dan.ciryak@parmajustice.net

New Parma Police initiative helps deter porch piracy

PARMA, Ohio – The Parma Police Department is holding a news conference at **2:00 PM on Monday, September 27, 2021, at the Parma Justice Center, 5555 Powers Blvd., Parma**, to announce a new initiative: Parma Project S.T.O.P. The acronym stands for Stop Theft of Packages.

Ward 7 Councilwoman Kammy Shuman collaborated with the Parma Police Department, Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter, Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Michael O'Malley, State Representative Jeff Crossman (District 15) and various third-party delivery services to launch the new program.

"As we enter the holiday season, many consumers will rely on online shopping. We typically see an increase of delivered parcels stolen from homeowners' porches and front door steps starting this time of year. The GPS technology purchased from Assisted Patrol will help police track stolen packages and catch thieves," Shuman said.

At the news conference, Parma Police will explain how the process will work. "It's important to note that the technology was purchased with Law Enforcement Trust Fund monies, so criminals are paying for this and not the taxpayers," said Police Chief Joseph Bobak. "The device can also be used for other crime-fighting purposes, such as combating auto theft."

The initiative is getting support from the county and state. At the news conference, a representative from the County Prosecutor's Office will share information about how residents can register their video doorbells or security cameras with the County Prosecutor's Office to help fight crime. And, Rep. Crossman will discuss how he is working to strengthen criminal laws on package theft.

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“I appreciate the City of Parma taking this initiative and working with me at the State level to help deter porch piracy in Parma and across Ohio. This proactive initiative has directly resulted in legislation that I will be proposing at the Statehouse, concurrent with the rollout of the S.T.O.P. program,” Crossman said. “Evidence shows that porch piracy is a growing problem across the country and, unless we work together at all levels to try and stop it, the problem will only grow worse.”

About Parma: The City of Parma is the seventh largest city in Ohio and Cleveland’s largest suburb. The city has more than 81,000 residents. The largest employer is General Motors Parma Metal Center, employing 1,023 workers. Two major hospital systems – University Hospitals Parma Medical Center and MetroHealth Parma Medical Center – provide full-service health care to residents. Parma has a long tradition of being a city of churches with more than 50 houses of worship. It is home to Cuyahoga Community College’s Western Campus, Parma City School District, The Shoppes at Parma retail shopping center, Stearns Homestead farm, Polish and Ukrainian villages and hundreds of small businesses. Additionally, there are many recreational parks and amenities, which include Ridgewood Golf Course, Ries Ice Rink, Veterans Memorial Park, Anthony Zielinski Park and James Day Park. The city’s motto is “Progress through Partnerships.”

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