



PRESS RELEASE

FROM THE OFFICE OF MAYOR MICHAEL P. BYRNE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PARMA HEIGHTS WINS SECOND SAFETY AWARD

Earlier named one of Safest Cities in Ohio

Parma Heights – The Parma Heights Police Department was one of only seven Northeast Ohio police departments honored with a 2014 AAA Platinum award given to participants in the AAA Community Traffic Safety Program. The awards, AAA’s highest honor, were announced in the January 2014 issue of the AAA *Motorist* magazine after their presentation at a ceremony held in November, 2013. Earlier in the month, the city was named one of the “Safest Cities in Ohio” according to a study completed by SafeWise, a community-focused security organization.

“I have continually said that safety is, and always will be, my top priority. These awards prove that our community is working hard to ensure security for every member of our community both in their homes and businesses, as well as on our roads,” commented Mayor Michael P. Byrne.

Platinum award winners, chosen from hundreds of Community Traffic Safety Program participants nationwide, were honored for their outstanding efforts to make the region’s roadways safer for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians. Parma Heights was among only 51 regional award winners recognized by AAA East Central. The goal of the AAA Community Traffic Safety Program is to “encourage communities to address local traffic safety issues in a coordinated and cost effective way, with an emphasis on the ‘3E’s’: enforcement, education and engineering,” according to AAA.

“Identifying and successfully addressing hazardous local traffic problems is a serious challenge and these communities have shown incredible leadership in developing workable solutions that save lives,” noted AAA East Central President Jim Lehman.

The SafeWise “Safest Cities in Ohio” award was determined using the most recent FBI crime data from 2011, along with population and other ranking factors, such as unique safety initiatives and security programs implemented within the past few years. “From the hundreds of cities in Ohio, we narrowed the list down to 50 and assigned rankings according to how the city met our criteria,” explained SafeWise security analyst John Roskelley. “When neighbors know each other, they look out

Parma Heights Wins Second Safety Award cont.

for each other. Ohio's safest cities are brimming with civically-minded residents who clearly take pride in where they live."

Mayor Byrne agrees and feels the small-town atmosphere of the community is one of the reasons Parma Heights scored so high in the ranking. "We are a small city that takes pride in being small. In Parma Heights, you can walk or bike the community and get to know your neighbors, plus, you can take advantage of free safety programs to keep you informed, ensure your safety, and be your eyes when you are away from home." He points to the city's CodeRED emergency notification system, fully-staffed Police and Fire Departments, Are You OK? phone program for seniors, shut-ins and disabled persons, the Vacation Check Program, and Home Security Survey as proof of the city's commitment to safety. "These initiatives, along with our recent membership in the Heritage Home Program which helps owners keep up their aging properties, instills a sense of pride and ownership in the community at large," Byrne added.

The full list can be viewed at: <http://www.safewise.com/blog/50-safest-cities-ohio>.

SafeWise prides themselves on being "the source for everything safety and security" and assists consumers in comparing home security systems so they can choose the best method to protect their homes. The SafeWise Report provides resources to help make homes and communities a safer place by providing home security tips and tools, as well as the most recent news in the safety industry.

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