



PRESS RELEASE

FROM THE OFFICE OF MAYOR MICHAEL P. BYRNE

**PARMA HEIGHTS CITY HALL
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PARMA HEIGHTS SWEARING-IN CEREMONIES HELD

Parma Heights – The Council Chambers were packed on New Year’s Day as Mayor Michael P. Byrne and three members of Council took their respective oaths-of-office.

Mayor Byrne, who ran unopposed, began his second four-year term after his son, Bryne, administered the oath of office. In his acceptance remarks, the mayor joked that there were two ways to run for office, “scared or unopposed”, and said that he experienced both emotions as the filing clock ticked closer to deadline. Once the deadline had passed, he said he was “relieved that I could now spend more time preparing for 2014 and working on future goals.”

Byrne credited the lack of an opponent on four factors: the support of Parma Heights residents, the dedication of City Council, the hard work of his directors and city employees whom he thanked for “their outstanding dedication and commitment to the residents”, as well as, the support and encouragement he receives from his family and friends.

Citing highlights and accomplishments of each of the departments and their respective directors, he then turned his attention to City Council saying that he has “truly enjoyed working with this Council”. Byrne noted that, although disagreements are inevitable, discussion, debate and mutual respect lead to resolutions that always have the best interests of the residents in mind.

Also sworn-in was newly-elected Councilwoman Renee Everett, representing Ward 1. Everett replaces former Council President Ralph Kolasinski, who did not stand for re-election. Councilwoman JoAnn Koch, re-elected as representative for Ward 3 and Robert Verdile, re-elected as a councilman-at-large were also sworn-in.

At the Council Organization Meeting held on January 2, 2014, Ward 4 Representative Marie Gallo was elected President of Council, while At-Large Councilman Jim McCall was re-elected Council Pro-Tem. This marks the first time in the city’s history that a woman has been elected Council President. Gallo presides over a seven-member Council with women representing all four of the wards.

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