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Parma Mayor-elect Tim DeGeeter Prepares for New Role

PARMA, OHIO -- Parma Mayor-elect Tim DeGeeter continued preparation for his new job by attending two events specifically designed to help new mayors transition into office. DeGeeter, who has served for eight years as State Representative for the 15th District, which includes Parma, will be sworn in as Mayor on Jan. 2.

DeGeeter joined 24 other new mayors from around the country at the John F. Kennedy School of Government in Boston last week for the 19th biennial Seminar on Transition and Leadership for Newly Elected Mayors. The program, paid for by the Harvard University Institute of Politics, was co-sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Mayors. The attendees spent three days discussing topics such as jobs and economic development, training for new city leaders, finance and administration, and the challenges of public safety. City of Lorain Mayor-elect Chase Ritenauer also attended the seminar.

DeGeeter also attended a similar local event. The Newly Elected Mayors Forum, sponsored by The Cuyahoga County Mayors and City Managers Association and the Northeast Ohio Mayors and City Managers Association, was held Friday, Dec. 2, at the law offices of Squire, Sanders & Dempsey in downtown Cleveland. The local program covered such topics as collective bargaining and pension reform, collaboration initiatives, and ethics.

"These programs have been enormously helpful to me while making the transition to City Hall," DeGeeter said. "The Harvard program gave me the opportunity to meet other mayors of similar size cities, to discuss the issues we share and to collaborate with each other on ideas for handling those issues. The dialogue with sitting mayors who presented was extremely helpful."

Trey Grayson, Director of the Harvard Institute of Politics, said: "This conference provides new city leaders an opportunity to gain important insights from scholars, policy experts and political practitioners on a myriad of management challenges and key issues they will face."

DeGeeter called the experience "invaluable," adding, "I was very pleased to participate in this important program. The seminar gave me new tools and techniques to maximize my ability to lead the City of Parma in a positive direction."



*Seminar on Transition and Leadership
for Newly Elected Mayors*