

December, 2009

Dear Residents:

Thank you for your strong show of support and re-electing me to another four-year term. I pledge to you to continue to balance the budget and to continually work to improve our city and the services that we provide to you.

During the election several firemen were campaigning door to door and telling residents that I was going to replace full time firemen with all part time firemen. This is and always has been totally false. Unfortunately during an election to get their candidate elected people will say anything even though they know it is untrue. So one more time I will state for our residents and the Fire Department that we now have 27 full time firemen and we will continue to have 27 full time firemen. We **will not** replace current full time firemen with part time firemen.

In our last contract negotiation with the Firefighters Union the city won through fair negotiations the ability to hire part time firefighters. Willoughby, Willowick, Wickliffe, Mentor and Painesville **ALL** employ part time firemen to **supplement** their full time force. We want to **ADD** to the number of firemen we have with part-timers. The number of full time firemen would remain always at 27. The P/T firemen will have the same certifications and education as our current F/T staff. The reason to **ADD** P/T firemen is to cover for vacations, required days off and sick days. Currently our only alternative is to cover this time off with **overtime** at an average rate of \$40 per hour. A P/T fireman would be paid \$18-\$20/hour. So far in 2009 we have already spent **\$258,000** on Fire Department **overtime**. The savings can then be used for recreation programs such as operating the pool and other needed recreation programs. Please note also that many of our current full time firemen supplement their income by working in other cities as part-timers. Also many of them started their careers as part-time firemen. This option makes strong economic sense and again is in line with what all of our neighboring cities do.

Our Service Department has done an excellent job with the leaf pickup this year . We will continue to pick up leaves until all are picked up. If your street still has leaves do not worry, we will be back to pick them up. Happy Holidays to all our residents.

Mayor Ted Andrzejewski
Eastlake, Ohio