

Village of Cuyahoga Heights Recognized

Mayor Jack Bacci had just begun his second year as Mayor for the Village of Cuyahoga Heights when he received notification in January, 2009 that Alcoa was having problems; they had to eliminate 100 employees who no longer would have jobs. If that wasn't enough for this small community, February came with more than just a snow storm, it came with more heart breaking news. Alcoa's 50,000-ton press was broken and sitting idle in its building at Alcoa's Cleveland Works. News spread like wildfire; Northeast Ohio was going to lose 1,000 jobs and more than \$200 million a year. Mayor Bacci and his administration worked side by side with the governor's office, state, county, city governments, as well as with Alcoa in trying to help with economic assistance. Finally in November, after numerous meetings, phone calls, time and legislation; grants and loans were issued...and Alcoa was given the go ahead to rebuild and enhance their forging plant in Cleveland.



On Wednesday evening, June 23, 2010, nine highly impactful economic development projects that were completed in 2009 were recognized at the fourth annual Team NEO Economic Development Plus Awards dinner. The event was held in Akron, Ohio at the John S. Knight Center and was presented by PNC. The event drew a crowd of more than 650 business and community leaders, economic developers, and chamber of commerce representatives throughout 16 counties in Northeast Ohio.

One of the awards that was presented that evening was for **"Business Retention."** The Village of Cuyahoga Heights, the cities of Cleveland and Independence, as well as Cuyahoga County received this significant honor for their combined efforts in the retention of Alcoa.

Tracey A. Nichols, from the City of Cleveland's Department of Economic Development previously has stated, "I have worked with Mayor Bacci and he has the ability to solve problems. Faced with the possible loss of jobs from his community, he reached out to the city of Cleveland, the county and other municipalities to fund the \$800,000 match required by the state to help finance a critical piece of equipment in need of a multimillion dollar repair. To my knowledge, this is the first time a regional solution has been proposed."

Although Mayor Bacci was unable to make it to the awards ceremony; a Team NEO Cleveland Plus representative stopped by the Cuyahoga Heights Village Hall on July 1 to give the Village its award. This prestigious award symbolized in the form of Team NEO's logo currently sits proudly on the Mayor's desk.