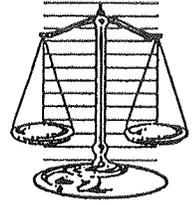




# CITY OF PARMA OHIO

## LAW DEPARTMENT



6611 RIDGE ROAD

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October 5, 2016

**Timothy G. Dobeck**

Law Director

Prosecutor

## LAW DIRECTOR ADVISORY

### Fake Power Company Worker Entering Residents' Properties and Homes

It has come to the attention of the City of Parma Law Director Tim Dobeck that Parma residents may be at risk of becoming victims of trespass, and potentially theft, by a man claiming to be a power company worker. Two separate instances reported that a man wearing a red flannel shirt and baseball hat approached the homes of North Royalton residents, claiming to work for The Illuminating Company, advising the residents that the power company would be working in the area and that the residents could potentially experience a temporary power loss. In one of the instances the man entered a resident's open garage, and in the other instance the man even entered the home of an elderly woman to show her where electric pole installations would be completed.

A separate, similar occurrence was reported as occurring in Parma last week on Orchard Avenue. A Parma resident reported that a man came to his door and informed him that the Illuminating Company would be replacing a transformer near the resident's property, and the man asked if he could enter the resident's home to look at his fuse box. The resident declined to allow the man into his home, and the man then walked to the Podiatry Food Clinic on Ridge Road near Orchard Avenue and drove off in a white SUV. In all three instances, the man claiming to work for the Illuminating Company was not wearing a uniform, lacked any sort of identification, and was not driving a company vehicle.

The Law Department contacted the manager of external affairs at FirstEnergy Service Company, Terry Killeen. Killeen emphasized that all employees in the field always carry a company I.D., and except for the rare instances where a meter is located inside of a resident's home, there is no reason for an Illuminating Company, or any other energy company, employee to enter the home.

"It's important for our residents to be aware of these instances, and remain informed and alert. Regardless of what line of work someone claims to be doing, or what objective a person claims to be pursuing, residents need to be cautious, trust their instincts, and heed their suspicions. Residents should not allow strangers into their homes," emphasized Dobeck. Parma residents are urged to be aware of these potential threats, inform other residents of these potential dangers, and should they have any reservations or doubts, do not hesitate to call and report their suspicions to the numbers listed below.

FirstEnergy Call Center:

1-800-589-3101

Parma Police Dept:

440-885-1234