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City Attorney Zach Klein Announces Board Up of Southwest Columbus Flop House Home to Criminals and Drug Traffickers

Says shut down restores safety, order for area residents and families

COLUMBUS, OH— Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein today announced that the Property Action Team recently secured a court order to shut down and board up a property located at 1504 Red Leaf Lane in Southwest Columbus. The home has been used as a “flop house” for drug users, traffickers and criminals on the run. Columbus Police (CPD) have made numerous runs to the property over the past two years for criminal and drug activity.

“No resident or family in our city should have to live next to a house that’s a safe haven for drug traffickers, violent criminals and those who have no regard for the law,” said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. **“The Property Action Team, CPD and community worked together, gathered the evidence, and helped build a case to get this property shut down and help restore safety and order for residents and families in this corner of Columbus.”**

Columbus Police received several complaints regarding the property in 2019 and 2021, but reports of suspicious activity, criminal conduct, and violence began to ramp up in 2024.

In January 2024, an individual reported violence at the premises. In March, the occupant of the home called to report stolen property, and in April, another individual reported destruction of property involving the same suspect as the March incident. A June call reported yet another incident of threatened violence involving the same individual.

In December 2024, CPD arrested a suspect at the premises on a felony warrant, and during a search, officers recovered cocaine and methamphetamine.

Police began to surveil the premises beginning in January 2025, identifying more than two dozen individuals associated with the property, including several convicted drug traffickers.

In February, police spoke with nearby witnesses that indicated the primary occupant of the property allowed “homeless criminals” to stay and use drugs at the residence. Over the course of

the next few weeks, officers interviewed witnesses and conducted several stops, which led to the recovery of drugs on several occasions and further evidence that the property was being used as a flop house for criminals.

In August, an arrest for drug possession occurred at the premises, and in September, a search warrant was executed, where narcotics, a handgun and seven people were found inside the home. Later that same month, a witness approached police about an alleged assault at the premises, and further police canvasses of the area indicated the property continued to have a reputation for ongoing drug and prostitution activity.

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