

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Monday, January 23, 2023 Contact: Pete Shipley, 614.965.0203 Email: <u>pjshipley@columbus.gov</u>

City Shuts Down East Side Drug House

City Attorney Klein says property was the scene of numerous calls for police service and at least three overdoses in the past year

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein announced today that the City of Columbus obtained an emergency court order to shut down an east side drug house which has been the scene of at least three overdoses, felonious conduct and numerous calls for police service in the last year. Columbus Police obtained and executed an order to board up the property located at 5361 Mendon Court.

"As City Attorney, public safety is my top priority," said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. **"When properties become havens for drug trafficking and criminal activity, the City Attorney's Office will do everything we can to work with law enforcement to shut them down, improve public safety and provide a better quality of life for area residents and families."**

Since January 2022, CPD has reported 24 calls for service and complaints at the premises, including multiple drug overdoses, a shooting and violence.

The string of complaints began in January 2022, when CPD officers responded to reports of a shooting at the premises.

In February 2022, police responded to a reported drug overdose at the premises.

In April 2022, CPD responded to complaints of forced prostitution at the premises.

May 2022 saw police respond to another drug overdose.

And in June 2022, police responded to multiple reports of individuals with guns and at least one person claiming to be held against their will at the premises.

In September 2022, CPD detectives sent notice of the narcotics activity at the premises to the property owner.

After police served notice of the illegal drug activity to the property's owner, police responded to a fentanyl overdose in November and a domestic violence complaint in December 2022.

"This property posed a significant threat to the health and safety of the neighborhood, and with the help of neighbors and CPD, we were able to take this

dangerous drug house out of play," said Assistant City Attorney Christopher Clark, one of the City's top nuisance property attorneys.

The order on the 5361 Mendon Court property is attached.

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