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Columbus Secures Emergency Court Order to Board Up Dangerous Bar

Moments Grill and Lounge on the city's southeast side was the scene of extensive violence, including the shooting of a special duty police officer

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein announced today that the City of Columbus secured an emergency court order to shut down a dangerous establishment where the Columbus Division of Police responded more than 100 times in the last two years for a litany of incidents that included shootings, felonious assaults, stolen vehicles, a stabbing, and a drug overdose. Inspectors also cited the business four times for violating health code orders related to safe dining, mask wearing and social distancing since last September.

In a hearing earlier this morning, the Franklin County Environmental Court granted Klein's motion for an *ex parte* temporary restraining order against *Moments Grill and Lounge*, located at [2545 Petzinger Road](#) in a neighborhood shopping center near the interchange of Route 33 and 70 East. Officers then cleared out the premises and enforced the court's board-up order.

“The dangerous crime taking place at this establishment was unacceptable,” said Klein. “The City of Columbus will continue to use every tool we have to stop the violence plaguing this area. We hope this shutdown will bring a sense of relief to those who live and work nearby.”

According to court documents, the 100-plus complaints and calls for service to the premises since March 2019 included 20 disturbances, eight felony thefts, seven shootings, seven felonious assaults, and a drug overdose.

On June 8, 2020, police responded to a report of a potential stabbing and found an unconscious victim with lacerations to the left side of his head and right knee lying in the parking lot.

On June 20, 2020, police responded to a report of a shooting and found a victim who was shot by an unknown suspect during an altercation that occurred in the parking lot.

On June 24, 2020, police responded to another shooting. The victim had left the scene and went to OSU Main Hospital for treatment.

On July 10, 2020, a Columbus police officer working as a special duty security guard at the premises was shot and taken to a nearby hospital for treatment.

On July 25, 2020, officers responded to a report of shots fired.

On March 17, 2021, officers recovered a gun from the premises.

On March 23, 2021, an intoxicated patron spit on a police sergeant who was working special duty at the premises.

On March 27, 2021, officers working special duty at the premises observed a fight break out on the patio with several people involved. Everyone stopped and began backing away after a male suspect reached into his right jacket pocket during the fight. Officers recovered a stolen gun from the suspect.

On March 31, 2021, police responded to a report of shots fired.

On April 12, 2021, police responded to a shooting and found a female victim who was shot in the chest.

“This establishment was a danger on many levels—first and foremost with the amount of violence that occurred, but also with the potential spread of COVID due to repeated violations of city and state health code orders,” said Assistant City Attorney Christopher Clark. “We’re pleased the judge granted our request for the emergency board-up order and look forward to presenting our full case at the next hearing.”

A follow-up hearing for a preliminary and permanent injunction against the owner and operator of the business is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. on May 12, 2021.

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