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Columbus City Attorney Secures Conviction in Daycare Child Endangering Case

Defendant found guilty of 14 counts of child endangering after posting video showing more than a dozen preschoolers fighting each other

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein announced today that Chavay Williams, 31, of the city’s northeast side, was found guilty on 14 counts of child endangering stemming from charges filed last year after she posted a video captioned “Street Fighters Come to Life.” Williams took the video while working as a lead teacher at Playtime Preschool, located at 1030 Alum Creek Drive, where she was in charge of two preschool classes that were in the playground area of the daycare when they began fighting and hitting each other, with some also attempting to climb a six foot high fence.

Williams posted a one-minute video of the chaotic scene online, embellishing it with cartoon boxing gloves and laughing/smiley-face emojis. In the video, children between the ages of three and five years old are seen fighting, screaming and crying while Williams and another individual laugh in the background.

“As a parent of young children, a case like this shocks and saddens me,” said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. “It’s horrifying to know that these kids were placed in the trust and care of a person who is expected to protect and nurture them, but instead put them in danger.”

Williams, who also goes by the name Chavay Jessie, was originally charged with a total of 21 counts of child endangering. A four-day trial before Franklin County Municipal Court Judge Jarrod B. Skinner was held last week after the defense waived their right to a jury trial. Judge Skinner delivered guilty verdicts on 14 of the 21 counts earlier today. Sentencing will be held on August 5, 2019 where Williams faces up to 18 months in jail. First Assistant City Attorney for Prosecution Joseph M. Gibson, Jr. prosecuted the case.

“We appreciate Judge Skinner’s careful deliberation in weighing the very serious charges against the defendant,” said First Assistant City Attorney for Prosecution Joseph M. Gibson, Jr. “We sincerely hope that Ms. Williams is not placed in another position where she is in charge of young children.”

Endangering children is a first degree misdemeanor under Ohio Revised Code Section [2919.22\(A\)](#), which states in part:

No person, who is the parent, guardian, custodian, person having custody or control, or person in *loco parentis* of a child under eighteen years of age or a

mentally or physically handicapped child under twenty-one years of age, shall create a substantial risk to the health or safety of the child, by violating a duty of care, protection, or support.

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