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City Attorney's Office Reaches Agreement to Demolish West Side Drug House

Property owners will pay to have structure torn down

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein announced that the City of Columbus has agreed to a stipulated resolution in court to have a west side property known for drug trafficking boarded up and demolished at the expense of the owners. It is the third west side drug house City Attorney Klein's office targeted in the span of three days last week. The first two were boarded up through emergency court order.

City attorneys initially filed a complaint for preliminary and permanent injunctive relief in the Franklin County Environmental Court to board up [158 N. Guilford Avenue](#), which is located less than a half-mile from Starling Middle School and McKinley Park. However, a fire originating at an adjacent property spread to 158 N. Guilford, causing enough damage to render it uninhabitable.

Instead of moving forward with the complaint as filed, the city was able to come to an agreement with the owners to resolve the case once the property is razed. The owners also agreed to keep the premises boarded up and maintained to code until it is demolished.

“The unique circumstances of this case presented an opportunity for us to achieve a ‘best case scenario’-type of outcome,” said City Attorney Zach Klein. “State law allows us to board up nuisance properties for up to one year, but in this instance the property owners are paying to have it torn down.”

Columbus police narcotics detectives originally began investigating the property in July last year and soon made a covert purchase of crack-cocaine at the premises.

On October 9, 2017, detectives sent a certified letter to the owners notifying them of the nuisance criminal activity occurring at their property.

Ensuing police investigations indicated that crack-cocaine continued to be sold at the premises.

“After the house is gone, hopefully a neighborhood asset will take its place,” said City Attorney Klein.

A status conference is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on April 5, 2018 where the owners will be required to update the city and the court on the progress of the demolition.