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City Attorney Klein Announces City Shuts Down First Nuisance Property of 2024

*Chittenden Ave. property has been the scene of dozens of calls for service,
violence, shootings, and out of control parties*

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein today announced the City has shut down the first nuisance property of 2024, with Columbus Police (CPD) executing a court order to board up the property located at 338 Chittenden Ave. Since 2021, CPD has received 39 calls to the premises, including for violent crime, theft and more than a dozen disturbances for large parties that often got out of hand, leading to multiple instances of shots fired and fights.

“Neighbors were rightly fed up with the out of control partying, violence and shootings at this property. Thanks to the Division of Police and concerned neighbors, this property has been shut down and the neighborhood is safer for it,” said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. **“As City Attorney, I’ve made it a priority to clean up these dangerous properties, and will continue to aggressively pursue legal action in 2024 to protect the safety of all Columbus neighborhoods.”**

According to court documents, the Chittenden Ave. property came to the attention of CPD in 2021, and since then, the Division has received 39 calls to the premises, including for a robbery, stolen vehicle, a shooting and multiple disturbances.

In June 2023, CPD responded to the premises on a report that someone was shot. The caller indicated there was a party on the premises at the time.

In July 2023, CPD responded to the premises on a report of shots fired, and when officers arrived on the scene, people were frantically exiting the premises. Officers located casings and fragments in the alley at the rear of the premises, as well as a vehicle with damage from a bullet and a nearby apartment with a bullet hole in the rear door.

In August 2023, officers responded to a reported robbery, and in September, officers received a complaint of shots fired at the premises. The caller indicated there was a party at the premises at the time of the gunfire, and CPD was able to locate a social media post advertising an after party being hosted at the premises that same day.

Less than two weeks after CPD sent the property owner a letter informing them of their duty to abate the nuisance activity at the premises, officers received a complaint about a large party at the premises that was described by the neighbor as being “out of hand.”

In December 2023, CPD received a report of a person with a gun at the premises. The concerned neighbor who called in the complaint also stated there were 10 people fighting outside on the property.

In January 2024, officers located nearby the premises heard multiple gunshots, and when they arrived on scene, they witnessed a party of more than 100 people at the premises. Officers found three casings, and a witness at the scene stated he heard five gunshots at the premises.

CPD obtained and executed an order to immediately board up the property, and a further hearing on a preliminary injunction in this case has been set for February 5 in the Franklin County Environmental Court.

“CPD was instrumental in the investigation into this property that was a nuisance to the neighborhood and posed a real, serious threat to public safety,” said Assistant City Attorney Christopher Clark, the lead attorney on the case. **“Now, neighbors can rest assured knowing that this property will no longer be a magnet for crime and chaos at all hours.”**