



ZACH KLEIN

COLUMBUS CITY ATTORNEY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, June 3, 2026
Contact: Pete Shipley, 614.965.0203
Email: pjshipley@columbus.gov

City Attorney Zach Klein announces Property Action Team files lawsuit against Sullivant Ave. market with history of underage sales, violent crime, and illegal gambling

M&J Carryout also had a laundry list of health, safety, and fire code violations, including stocking expired baby food on store shelves

COLUMBUS, OH— Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein today announced that his Property Action Team filed a lawsuit against the owners of M&J Carryout for various code violations, underage alcohol sales, violent crime, and illegal gambling. The west side market located at 1958 Sullivant Avenue was one of several properties referenced by residents as being a problem at City Attorney Klein’s recent Block by Block community safety forum on the city’s west side.

“We want businesses to thrive and be community hubs in every Columbus neighborhood, but owners need to follow the law and operate safely. That is not what’s been happening at this market on Sullivant Ave. Residents are rightly fed up, and now owners must face the court. We want them to clean up their act or face additional accountability,” said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein.

Since May 2024, Columbus Police and Fire departments have received more than 35 calls regarding the market, including for an assault, shots fired, substance abuses, and alcohol-related incidents. The market has also been connected to reports of a man trying to fight people outside the front of the store, affiliated with reports of the theft of EBT cards, and reports of sex workers loitering around the premises. On multiple occasions, CPD responded to the market on reports of violent crime, including individuals threatening people with guns, a fight, and a stabbing.

In addition to various quality of life crimes, the market has failed multiple underage alcohol sales compliance checks and has been cited for numerous safety and fire code violations, including selling expired baby food.

In May 2026, CPD detectives also uncovered illegal gambling at the market as well as liquor sales outside the parameters of their permit, and citations were issued.

“Community complaints are often the building blocks of legal action. Thanks to residents for speaking up and to Police and Fire for gathering the evidence needed to hold these owners accountable for creating a nuisance within the neighborhood. West side residents deserve businesses that follow the rules, are safe, and contribute to the fabric of the community. It’s our hope that this lawsuit is the spark needed to make changes at this market,” said Property Action Team Attorney Rob Doersam.

The case is set for hearing on Monday, June 15, at 9:30 a.m.

**Editor’s note: A copy of the Property Action Team’s complaint can be viewed [here](#).*

###