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City Attorney Zach Klein Applauds Jail Sentence for Man Who Violently Assaulted Umpire

Defendant sentenced to 30 days in jail beginning Jan 4

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein issued a statement today following the sentencing of a man who physically assaulted an adult recreational league softball umpire in 2023. Judge Zach Gwin sentenced the defendant, Mr. Gregory Roudabush, to 30 days in jail beginning January 4, 2025, and three years of probation for the assault.

City Attorney Klein released the following statement:

“The officials who call our kids’ games and spend their evenings and weekends at our parks and rec centers aren’t in it for the money. They are there to give back to the sports they love. Threatening or assaulting an official is never acceptable, and I applaud Judge Gwin’s sentence in this case.

“Actions have consequences, and as long as I’m City Attorney, this kind of violent, criminal behavior will not be tolerated. We cannot accept or normalize this kind of abusive and violent behavior in our community, which has become all too common and led to many good officials to leave the games they love. And let’s face it: without officials there are no games,” said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein, who spent over 20 years as a basketball referee beginning as an intramural referee in college and working at all levels of basketball, most recently as an NCAA Division-I Women’s Basketball official before retiring last year.

The assault occurred during a Columbus Recreation and Parks Department adult slow-pitch softball league at Lou Berliner Sports Complex, where the defendant struck the umpire in the face following the defendant’s ejection from the game for arguing.