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City Attorney Zach Klein Applauds Judge Peeples for Moving Forward on City's Prosecution of Illegal Gun Possession Case

The defendant in the case is charged with violating a city weapons under disability law prohibiting firearm possession for those convicted of certain violent crimes and other serious offenses

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein issued a statement today applauding Franklin County Municipal Court Judge Andrea C. Peeples' decision denying a challenge of the City of Columbus weapons under disability law that makes it illegal for individuals convicted of certain offenses involving drugs or violence to possess a firearm. The decision comes as part of a 2021 case involving a defendant charged with a WUD offense stemming from a prior felony conviction for improperly handling a firearm in a motor vehicle (R.C. 2923.16). The defendant claimed the City's prohibition is unconstitutional, but Judge Peeples ruled in favor of the City and the case is moving forward.

Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein's full statement:

“Police and prosecutors are working hard to enforce our laws, get violent individuals off the streets, and put them behind bars. Columbus passed its weapons under disability law to ensure that those who have no regard for the law or human life cannot possess these dangerous weapons.

“I applaud Judge Peeples' decision to uphold this commonsense law that exists to protect public safety. The City will continue to do everything in its power to uphold existing laws and to enact and enforce reasonable measures to keep our kids and communities safe.”

Under the City's prohibition, a weapons under disability charge is a misdemeanor offense that carries potential penalties including up to one year in jail, with a mandatory minimum term of at least 180 consecutive days, and up to a \$1500 fine.