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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, March 30, 2026
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City Attorney Zach Klein cracks down on dangerous tire shop with severe code violations

Property Action Team and Columbus Fire team up to shut down Refugee Road shop with dozens of fire and electrical hazards

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein today announced his Property Action Team secured an order to shutter Best Deal Tire and Rims, a tire shop located at 3720 Refugee Road. The shop failed a Columbus Fire Department safety inspection earlier this month with conditions so bad that CFD recommended closure. CFD cited dozens of serious fire and electrical hazards at the shop.

“Businesses have a duty to operate safely, both for their employees and the neighborhoods they’re located in. The conditions at this shop were so dangerous that we had no choice but to step in and push for closure. It’s a matter of public safety,” said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein.

“We’re grateful for our partnership with Columbus Fire who worked diligently to help us build this case and go in to remove hundreds of tires and dangerous materials from this shop. We’ll continue to work with CFD to crack down on any business that presents a serious threat to public safety.”

The crackdown comes amid concerns about tire shops in neighborhoods across the city, which have neighbors concerned about the safety of their conditions and operations. The Property Action Team and CFD remain committed to holding accountable any business in the city operating unsafely.

Columbus Fire Department (CFD) visited the Refugee Road shop earlier this month to run a compliance check and found significant fire and electrical hazards, including excessive storage of tires and trash, inaccessible exits, loose storage of flammable liquids, oil covered floors, flammable gas cylinders unsecured and stored unsafely, evidence of welding and cutting with a torch, areas under construction and areas not to be occupied were in full use for auto repair and storage. These conditions presented serious safety threats and a high likelihood of a fire.

The shop was already under a court order related to safety issues, so Environmental Court Judge Stephanie Mingo ordered the tire shop to be shut down and for City officials to go back in and remove any highly dangerous materials from the shop.

**Editor's note: A copy of the order can be viewed [here](#), and fire inspection report (with photos) can be viewed [here](#).*