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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, March 14, 2024
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City Attorney Zach Klein Launches PSA Campaign Calling on Residents to Report Problem Properties in Their Neighborhoods

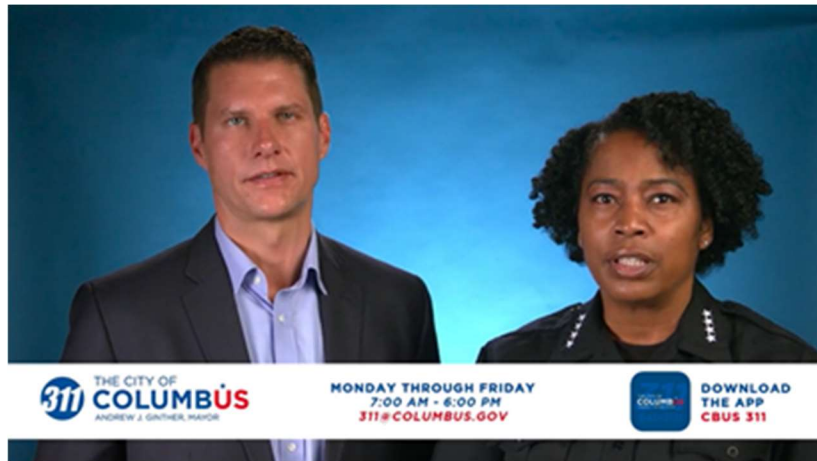
Says that cleaning up blight and nuisance properties often begins with a community tip, urges residents to say something when they see something

COLUMBUS, OH— Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein today launched a digital public service announcement informing Columbus residents of their options to report problem properties in their neighborhoods like drug houses or violent and dangerous bars and businesses. The campaign follows the [recently announced expansion of the Property Action Team](#), a specialized team within the City Attorney's Office that works closely with the Division of Police, various city departments and community members to address dozens of nuisance properties each year. During a press conference earlier this week, Klein said that many of the nearly 250 cases filed for criminal activity since he has taken office began with community tips.

“Cleaning up violent bars and shutting down drug houses often begins with a community tip, a concerned resident who says something when they see something’s wrong in their neighborhood,” said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. **“It takes all of us to lift up our communities. That’s why we’re launching this campaign to let folks know how they can get involved, report problem properties, and be a part of the solution in their neighborhood. If you see something, say something. You can make a difference.”**

The City Attorney's Office is launching the PSA campaign across its social media channels, Columbus Government Television (CTV), and sharing with community leaders in an effort to get the word out on how residents can get involved when they see something in their neighborhood.

To report criminal activity at a property, residents can call the Division of Police's non-emergency line at (614) 645-4545. All other reports can be made via 311, either by calling (614) 645-3111 or visiting www.columbus.gov/311.



Columbus City Attorney Klein and Division of Police Chief Elaine Bryant in the City Attorney's Office's Problem Properties PSA, 3/14/24

The PSA, which features City Attorney Klein and Columbus Division of Police Chief Elaine Bryant, can be found on the City Attorney's official [YouTube](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [X \(Twitter\)](#) pages.

Since 2018, the Property Action Team has filed nearly 250 cases in Environmental Court for criminal activity at properties across the city, including against 136 drug houses, 30 bars and illegal after hours clubs, 18 area hotels and more than 50 other businesses. In addition, the city has filed more than 3,500 cases for code violations, secured millions of dollars in fines against problem landlords and property owners, and objected to 69 liquor permit renewals.

The team has also worked with strategic partners to fight crime and blight by reducing the number of vacant and abandoned building in the city, with an 85 percent decline in the number of vacant buildings rated in poor condition in recent years. The team has also worked to keep elderly residents in their homes with funding to complete needed repairs to fix code violations.

For more information on the Property Action Team, visit <https://city-attorney.columbus.gov/propertyactionteam.aspx>