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City Attorney Zach Klein Reflects on a Year Highlighted by Work to Improve Public Safety and Advocate for Residents

Says the City Attorney's Office remained tough on violent crime, took action against problem properties and continued to advocate on behalf of residents

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein today offered a year-end reflection on the work of the City Attorney's Office to advance its priorities over the past year, headlined by tough on crime policies that put dangerous and violent criminals behind bars, aggressive actions to hold problem property owners accountable, and a number of proactive lawsuits to protect the health, safety and security of residents.

In 2024, city prosecutors handled over 2,700 OVI and 3,100 domestic violence cases, resolved a number of high-profile hate crime cases, and continued to prioritize safer streets by going after stunt driving and street racers. In addition, the City's prosecution section continued to see success with innovative diversion programs that reduce crime and get certain non-violent offenders who commit offenses out of need back on the right path.

“Public safety is my top priority, and as City Attorney, I've been aggressive in getting violent individuals off our streets and implementing effective programs to reduce theft and improve neighborhood safety. That will continue to be our priority heading into the new year,” said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein.

In 2024, the City Attorney's Office expanded its Property Action Team to take action against 26 new problem properties, including drug houses, violent bars and dangerous businesses. The team delivered [\\$10,000 insurance settlement checks](#) for the displaced former tenants of the Latitude Five25 Apartments, saw progress for the future development of [Eastland Mall](#) and [Fort Rapids](#) on the east side, and [announced an agreement](#) to move the majority of operations away from the troubled Greyhound bus terminal on the west side.

“This year, the Property Action Team continued its work to make our neighborhoods safer because residents and families simply deserve better,” said City Attorney Klein. **“If you own or operate an unsafe or violent property or do wrong by your tenants, the City will take you to court and we will hold you accountable.”**

2024 also saw the launch of two key initiatives, [the Porch Protection Program](#), which distributed hundreds of doorbell cameras to households in crime-heavy ZIP codes, as well as a county-wide [Tap In Center](#) to allow more low-level, non-violent offenders to get their cases back on track in court and resolved. The City Attorney's Office also saw an expansion of Project Taillight, where more than 400 lower income Columbus residents were able to access free auto repairs to keep everyone safe on the road.

City Attorney Klein also continued to use the power of the office to reach a historic settlement to [fix Ohio's broken criminal background check system](#), defend the City's right to pass commonsense gun safety laws, and [fight to protect decades of local tobacco ordinances](#) that keep these harmful products out of the hands of teens. The office also worked on cases to [protect the City's water supply](#) from dangerous contaminants and hold corporations accountable for [conspiring to artificially inflate the price of insulin](#).

“As City Attorney, I want Columbus to be a leader on the quality-of-life issues that matter most to folks in our city, from clean water and safer streets to the price of lifesaving drugs. We will continue to fight for our residents and use every tool within our power to improve lives, strengthen our neighborhoods, and make Columbus a world class city. While we've made real progress on these priorities in 2024, we know there is more work to do in the new year. I look forward to it,” said City Attorney Klein.