



ZACH KLEIN

COLUMBUS CITY ATTORNEY

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Contact: Pete Shipley, 614.965.0203
Email: pishipley@columbus.gov

City Attorney Zach Klein Statement as Court Grants Temporary Restraining Order Against Individual Who Disclosed City's Stolen Data Posted on Dark Web

Says court action necessary to protect active criminal investigations and safety of law enforcement officers and public

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein issued the following statement as the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas sided with the City and granted a temporary restraining order against Mr. David Ross in response to critically sensitive information Ross shared with various other individuals. The order prohibits Ross from sharing the City's data that has been stolen and posted on the dark web as part of a massive cyber-attack of the City's IT system.

“I respect the judge’s decision to side with the City in this matter. As City Attorney, I have a duty to do whatever I can to protect police, victims, undercover officers and the public when they are threatened with harm. This decision is a positive step to stem the dissemination of stolen confidential personnel and victim data—information that compromises active investigations and poses a threat to the lives and livelihoods of real people.

“The City Attorney’s Office will continue to offer whatever assistance we can to the ongoing criminal investigation into the data breach and will not hesitate to take further legal action against this or any other individual who discloses the City’s stolen data and threatens public safety.”