



# ZACH KLEIN

## COLUMBUS CITY ATTORNEY

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## City Attorney Zach Klein's Property Action Team moves to shut down problem hotel on Morse Road

*Baymont Inn at 887 Morse Rd. has a long history of gun crimes, prostitution, and drug overdoses*

**COLUMBUS, OH**— Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein today announced that the Property Action Team is seeking the closure of the Baymont Inn located at 887 Morse Road. The filing against the hotel's owners follows continued and repeated violations of court orders on the property aimed at maintaining safety and security. The hotel continues to be a haven for guns, drugs, prostitution and other criminal activity, and the City has filed to hold owners in contempt of court, impose fines, revoke their hotel license, and shutter the property until further notice.

**"When I was on City Council, one of my main priorities was to clean up run down hotels that had become real problems in their neighborhood, which is how our hotel licensing program was born. As City Attorney, I've remained focused on hotels and holding owners who turn a blind eye to crime, drugs, and safety concerns accountable for these awful conditions,"** said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein.

**"Thanks to the Property Action Team and Columbus Police, Fire and Code Enforcement, we're hopeful this hotel will no longer be a magnet for crime and drugs. These owners have had many chances to improve conditions and failed to maintain a safe, secure property. It's time to shut them down."**

The property has been on the City's radar for years. In 2018, the City filed a lawsuit and subsequent agreed order regarding operations following reports of prostitution and drug use on the property. This order declared the property a public nuisance and required owners to remain in compliance with all codes, prohibit prostitution, and undergo a security assessment to determine necessary security upgrades, which led to requirements for security personnel on site.

In the years since the 2018 order, owners have repeatedly violated the order. In 2023, a new order was issued that shut down the property for 30 days. But problems have continued. From January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2025, Columbus Police received over 440 calls for service, including 13 overdoses, nine shootings, 18 individuals with weapons, and many reports of stabbings, fights, assaults, as well as drugs and sex crimes.

In February 2025, CPD's PACT unit discovered an online advertisement for prostitution at the hotel and investigated the activity and the hotel's procedures that allowed it to happen. Then the next month, CPD responded to the hotel to conduct a wellness check and found an individual unresponsive. That individual was transported to a local hospital and pronounced dead from an overdose.

In subsequent months, CPD responded to multiple incidents at the premises, including several overdoses and robberies. They also conducted another undercover investigation of an online prostitution advertisement.

In February 2026, Columbus Fire investigated the property and found numerous violations of the fire code. This inspection came just months after the State Fire Marshal cited the property for more than a dozen violations. And just earlier this month, Columbus Code Enforcement officers inspected the property and issued several violations of its own.

The City's filing detailed multiple violations of provisions within the court orders on the property, most notably continued issues with prostitution, overdoses, and gun violence. With owners continually ignoring court orders and threatening public safety, the Property Action Team is asking the Court for an emergency hearing so that owners can be held in contempt of court, fined, and ordered to shut down the hotel until further notice.

**“Hotels in Columbus are held to a high standard, and when that standard isn't met, the City steps in to hold owners accountable. This hotel continues to flagrantly violate the Court's orders and allows crime, drugs, and prostitution to run unchecked. We had no choice but to step in and take further action,”** said Property Action Team Attorney Heidy Carr.

There is a licensing appeal hearing date scheduled for April 1 at 9 a.m. and a court date on the contempt motion scheduled for April 14 at noon.

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