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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, March 24, 2026
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City Attorney Zach Klein's Property Action Team pushes for accountability following Linden area bar shooting

Klein says additional action is necessary to protect public safety

COLUMBUS, OH— Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein today announced that the Property Action Team is taking further legal action against the owners of the First Stop Bar and Grill located at 1427 Oakland Park Ave. in North Linden. The City is asking the Court to hold owners in contempt of a court order and get the bar shut down following a shooting at the premises this past weekend. The bar has a history of violent crime, liquor code violations, and several shootings.

“We want a vibrant bar and nightlife scene in Columbus, but it can’t come at the expense of public safety. These owners have gotten more than a fair chance to turn things around, but they continue to be a problem in the neighborhood. After this latest violent incident, we’re going to ask the Court to hold owners in contempt and shut this place down,” said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein.

In September 2022, the City objected to the bar’s liquor permit due to criminal history but withdrew the objection after reaching an agreement with owners to address the activity. Since then, CPD has received numerous calls for service to the premises for reports of violence, criminal activity and other disturbances, which led to the City Attorney’s Property Action Team filing a lawsuit against owners in July 2025. Since September, the bar has been subject to an agreed judgment entry, which outlines stringent conditions of operation.

In this week’s filing, the Property Action Team cited numerous violations of the court’s order, including ownership’s failure to maintain a trespass list or sufficient security, staying open beyond their curfew, allowing firearms into the bar, and failing to install a metal detector and working security camera system.

“We want businesses to succeed in Linden, but public safety must come first. This bar’s continued history of violence and criminal activity gave us no choice but to go back to the Court and ask to hold owners in contempt,” said Property Action Team Attorney Kenyatta Wilder.

In addition to a history of violence and criminal activity, Columbus’ Liquor Nuisance Abatement Group conducted an inspection of First Stop in May 2024 and noted numerous violations,

including several fire code violations, moldy bar gun nozzles and failure to locate and post their liquor permit. In addition, the undercover agents observed an underage sale at the bar and issued a citation.

“Businesses have a duty to operate legally and safely, but problems continued even after the Court stepped in with clear orders. Thanks to CPD and the work of the Liquor Abatement Group to gathering the evidence we need to hold owners accountable and make this area of Linden safer,” said Property Action Team Attorney Sophie R. Yano.

A contempt hearing is set for April 15 at noon.

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