



ZACH KLEIN

COLUMBUS CITY ATTORNEY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, July 21, 2025
Contact: Pete Shipley, 614.965.0203
Email: pjshipley@columbus.gov

City Files Lawsuit Against Linden Area Bar Following a Recent Double-Shooting, History of Violence, Crime and Code Violations

City Attorney Zach Klein says Property Action Team filed lawsuit against First Stop Bar and Grill the moment it had enough evidence to present to the Court

COLUMBUS, OH— Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein today announced that the Property Action Team filed a lawsuit against the First Stop Bar and Grill located at 1427 Oakland Park Ave. in North Linden for a history of violent crime, liquor code violations, and a recent double-shooting earlier this summer.

“Bars and nightlife are essential to a vibrant city, but those businesses cannot operate at the expense of public safety. The moment the Property Action Team had the evidence it needed to bring a case against these owners who don’t seem to care about safety or the law, we filed with the Court,” said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein.

In September 2022, the City objected to the bar’s liquor permit due to criminal history at or near the premises. That City withdrew the objection after reaching an agreement with owners to address the activity. But since then, CPD has received numerous calls for service to the premises for reports of violence, criminal activity and other disturbances.

In September 2023, CPD responded to a report of a shooting at the premises. When officers arrived, they found a victim suffering from an apparent gunshot wound. The victim was transported to the hospital and the shooter charged with felonious assault.

In December 2024, CPD responded to the premises on a report of shots fired.

In April 2025, CPD responded to separate reports of an assault and robbery as well as shots fired at the premises.

In June 2025, police responded to a report of a stabbing at the premises. Upon arriving at the scene, police identified two victims with stab wounds, injuries sustained from a fight which had occurred in the parking lot. The assailant was later arrested for felonious assault.

On July 9, officers were dispatched to the premises on the report of a shooting. Officers on the scene at the time reported seeing a vehicle stop in front of the bar and fire shots inside. CPD

followed the vehicle until it crashed. The occupant of the vehicle was apprehended and charged with felonious assault. Additional officers at the premises attended to gunshot victims.

“We want to see businesses succeed in Linden, but they must do so safely and in compliance with the law. This bar’s history of violence and criminal activity threatened public safety, so we had no choice but to step in and take action once we had sufficient evidence,” 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.

“Thanks to CPD and the work of the Liquor Abatement Group, we were able to provide a full picture of the conditions and ongoing threat to public safety so we can abate the nuisance and improve the quality of life in this area of Linden,” said Property Action Team Attorney Sophie R. Yano.

###