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Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein Announces Criminal Charges in North Linden Dog Attack

Says office will prosecute case to the fullest extent possible and advocate for stronger state laws to hold problem dog owners accountable

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein today announced criminal charges against Luis Martinez Ortiz, the owner of several dogs that attacked and severely injured a child in the 3500 block of Hiawatha Street in North Linden earlier this month. Columbus Police filed four first degree misdemeanor counts of animal at large for the animals that were on another person's property, uncontrolled and caused physical harm to a person when they viciously attacked the child earlier this month. Animal Control filed additional charges in the attack.

“The tragic attack on a child is horrific, and my heart goes out to the family as they begin the long road to recovery and healing. But this tragic event was entirely preventable. A child is needlessly suffering and fighting for his life because the defendant failed to take the required steps to secure his dangerous animals. That is inexcusable, and my office will prosecute this case to the fullest extent possible.

“At the same time, I echo the calls of those who want to see stronger state laws that increase penalties and hold problem dog owners accountable for the threat their negligence poses to neighbors, residents, families and the public's safety. If you knowingly own a dangerous animal and it attacks someone, you should be held accountable every time, and our laws need to reflect that.”

The case numbers and official charges are as follows:

- CPD filed 2025 ERB 70374, four counts for animal at large under city code (M-1)
- Animal Control filed 2025 ERB 70372, three counts for failure to register (unclassified misdemeanors), two counts for failure to confine (unclassified misdemeanor), two counts for failure to vaccinate (minor misdemeanor), two counts for failure to confine a dangerous dog (M-4), and one count for failure to register a dangerous dog (M-4)

The defendant in this case has a record of keeping a dangerous dog and failing to confine and register that dog. The dog in question for the previous charges was not among those that attacked the child on March 2.