



# ZACH KLEIN

## COLUMBUS CITY ATTORNEY

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## City Attorney Zach Klein's Property Action Team files lawsuit against north side landlords accused of ignoring fire code violations

*Court orders property owners to maintain fire watch patrol while essential safety systems are fixed and the property is brought up to code*

**COLUMBUS, OH**— Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein today announced that the Property Action Team secured a court order against the owners of several apartment buildings on the north side of Columbus. The order comes after owners failed to fix severe fire code violations recently issued by the Columbus Division of Fire (CFD) and implement a temporary fire watch while essential systems get back online. Owners will now be required by the court to maintain a temporary fire watch and keep a record to report back to the city and court.

**“Landlords who violate fire codes and create unsafe living conditions for their tenants will be held accountable in the city of Columbus. Either fix the problem and follow the Division of Fire’s protocols or find yourself in court,”** said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. **“We don’t mess around when it comes to fire safety.”**

In April 2026, the CFD inspected the properties located at 2200 Walford Lane and 2160-2180 Fitzroy Drive near the intersection of Morse Road and Cleveland Ave. Inspectors noted numerous fire code violations that constituted real and immediate danger to tenants, at which time CFD issued orders for property owners to institute a temporary fire watch while the property is brought up to code. A temporary fire watch is necessary when fire systems like fire alarms or sprinkler systems are out of service.

The Environmental Court granted the City’s motion to require property owners to contract with their private security firm to maintain a fire watch patrol, keep a fire watch log, and share it with the Court.

**“Safety and security remain top priorities as we approach our work, and when landlords fail to provide a place to live that meets basic fire standards, we have no choice but to step in and take legal action. I thank my team and the Division of Fire for building this case, and the Court for moving swiftly on a resolution that will keep tenants safe,”** said Property Action Team Chief Steve Dunbar.

*\*Editor’s note: A copy of the court order can be viewed by clicking the link, [05-05-2026- TRO](#).*