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City of Columbus Shuts Down Another Drug House Known to Harbor Fugitives

North Linden property the scene of cocaine and heroin trafficking, drug overdoses, prostitution and violence against women

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein announced that the City of Columbus secured an emergency court order to immediately vacate and shutter a notorious North Linden residence that was described in court today as a “habitual resort for thieves, burglars, robbers” and “a place where criminals regularly hide from law enforcement.”

City Attorney Klein’s office filed a request for an *ex parte* temporary restraining order this morning in the Franklin County Environmental Court to board up [3207 Karl Road](#), which is located in a residential neighborhood blocks from two elementary schools and a middle school. The property also is within walking distance of Huy Road Park.

The owner/occupant with “charge, care and control” of the premises is Kevin Cochrane, who inherited the property from his mother. Over the last year, Columbus Police responded to the property numerous times for reports that included weapon offenses, overdoses, disturbances, drug and alcohol violations and an “officer in trouble” signal.

“No neighborhood should have to tolerate the dangerous and illegal activities that were occurring at this property,” said City Attorney Zach Klein. “We want to thank the community and the Columbus Police Division for diligently working with our attorneys to help build our case to shut this place down.”

According to court documents, Columbus Police began investigating the property last year on suspicion of illegal narcotics being sold from the premises. On October 21, 2017, in two separate incidents at the premises, police apprehended two individuals who had previously fled from officers in order to avoid arrest. One of the individuals admitted he had illegal pills on him and didn’t want to go back to prison for violating parole; the other had two felony warrants for his arrest and didn’t want to be brought into custody.

Following up on complaints of prostitution occurring at the premises, officers verified that a female with an extensive criminal record for drug possession and solicitation was living at the property and posting explicit images of herself on www.backpage.com.

Court records indicate that officers responded to a call to the premises on March 23rd of this year to investigate a report of a female being dragged inside the property by “two males with a gun.” At least one individual was arrested on outstanding felony warrants.

The following day, officers arrested a known heroin user from the premises for possession of

drugs and drug paraphernalia.

On March 26th, Columbus Police officials spoke in person with the owner, Mr. Cochrane, and explained to him that they had obtained evidence of prostitution and drug dealing at his property. Officers also provided him with official written notice that his property could be declared a public nuisance and boarded up if the illegal activity did not cease.

Within days, narcotics detectives began gathering direct evidence of crack cocaine and heroin trafficking continuing to occur at the premises. On May 2nd, police and EMS personnel responded to an overdose victim at the premises.

“It’s sad and tragic to see people’s lives being destroyed by drugs and human trafficking right in the middle of a residential neighborhood,” said Assistant City Attorney Katarina Karac. “It is particularly troubling to know that all this illegal activity was occurring within walking distance of three nearby schools.”

A follow-up hearing for a preliminary and permanent injunction is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. on June 14, 2018.

If the property is ultimately declared to be a statutorily defined public nuisance, state law grants the court authority to order the premises shut down for up to one year. The owner also would be permanently enjoined from “conducting, maintaining, using, occupying, or in any way permitting” a public nuisance anywhere else in Franklin County, Ohio.

In order to secure closure of the property, Karac, who is the Zone Initiative Attorney assigned to the Linden area of Columbus, is seeking to prove that Mr. Cochrane is guilty of maintaining a nuisance by establishing that he, as owner of the premises, “knew of, participated in, or acquiesced to the activity which constituted the nuisance” as prescribed by [Chapter 3767](#) of the Ohio Revised Code.

Copies of the city’s [complaint](#) and the [court’s order](#) are available online.

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