



**ZACH KLEIN**  
COLUMBUS CITY ATTORNEY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, March 2, 2018

Contact: Meredith Tucker, 614.645.8997

Email: [mctucker@columbus.gov](mailto:mctucker@columbus.gov)

## City of Columbus Boards Up Fourth West Side Drug House this Year

*Earlier police raid found crack-cocaine, heroin, marijuana, pills,  
semi-automatic weapons and live ammunition*

**COLUMBUS, OH**—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein announced today that the City of Columbus secured a court order to vacate and shutter a west side property that had been under police investigation for illegal activity the past few months. It is the fourth drug house City Attorney Klein has closed down in police zone three, which covers the west side of Columbus, since taking office in January.

City attorneys filed a complaint for preliminary and permanent injunctive relief in the Franklin County Environmental Court to board up [424 South Harris Avenue](#), which is located within a half-mile radius of the Hilltop Branch Library, Burroughs Elementary School and St. Mary Magdalene School. The owner of record is Philip E. Cundall of Columbus. Officials believe that Mr. Cundall's son, also named Philip, was living at the property while Cundall was out of the country.

**“It’s deeply troubling that semi-automatic weapons were found at this location along with evidence of heavy drug trafficking,” said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. “We must never forget the danger these drug houses pose to the residents in these neighborhoods and to the police officers who are working to keep them safe.”**

After launching an investigation prompted by community complaints, Columbus Police Division narcotics detectives made several covert purchases of crack-cocaine and heroin from the premises.

As a result, police officials executed a search warrant on December 13, 2017. After having to forcibly enter the premises, the narcotics detectives found:

- Two digital scales
- 69.57 grams of crack-cocaine
- 18.71 grams of heroin
- 7 grams of marijuana
- Two semi-automatic guns
- An extended magazine, 20 live rounds, and nine .40 caliber rounds
- Ten individuals inside, including the property owner’s son who was charged with felony possession of cocaine

On December 20, 2017, police officials attempted to notify the owner via certified mail about the drug violations occurring at the property but the son reportedly refused receipt of the letter.

The police investigation continued and detectives obtained additional direct evidence of ongoing heroin sales at the premises into 2018.

**“The four west side drug houses we shut down so far were clearly having a corrosive effect on their neighborhoods,” Assistant City Attorney Kristen Dickerson. “We know there will be others and our office will work aggressively with the community and law enforcement to continue putting these drug operations out of business.”**

Dickerson is the Zone Initiative Attorney assigned to Police Zone Three on the west side of Columbus. The court ordered a status conference to be held at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, March 9, 2018.

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

###