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# Columbus Police, Franklin County Sheriff, City Attorney Combine to Shut Down Dangerous Drug House

*West side property was the scene of drug trafficking, gun violence, domestic violence, robbery*

**COLUMBUS, OH**—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein announced today that the City of Columbus secured an emergency court order to board-up a dangerous drug operation that was running out of a duplex located just minutes away from an elementary school, a middle school, and a Catholic church. The City Attorney's office has now obtained court injunctions to shut down 18 drug-related nuisance properties so far this year. Ten of them have been on the city's west side.

Records indicate that the Columbus Division of Police responded to [668 South Wheatland Avenue](#) multiple times over the last year and have seized heroin, cocaine, weapons, and thousands of dollars of illegal drug proceeds from the premises. Franklin County Sheriff's detectives also began surveillance of the property in October after receiving information that narcotics were being sold there.

Immediately after the Franklin County Environmental Court granted City Attorney Klein's motion for an *ex parte* temporary restraining order this afternoon, officers from the Investigative/Tactical Unit raided the property and enforced the court's order to board up the premises.

**“I would like to thank both the Columbus Division of Police and the Franklin County Sheriff's office for assisting us with the investigation of this drug operation,” said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. “It's another example of different agencies working together to root out crime, violence, and dangerous drugs from our neighborhoods.”**

According to court documents, Columbus Police have conducted several covert purchases of crack cocaine from the premises, resulting in search warrants that turned up an assortment of weapons and drugs.

On August 25, 2018 police were called to the premises on report of shots fired. The responding officers discovered bullet holes in both units of the property and eventually found two individuals hiding in a bathroom. Officers documented that one of these individuals already had been involved in another shooting incident in the prior 36 hours.

On September 5, 2018 Columbus Police executed a search warrant of the premises and seized \$3227 in cash, a digital scale, crack cocaine, and heroin.

On October 25, 2018 police were called to the premises on report of a domestic violence incident. The victim informed the responding officers that the father of her child “threw her around” the apartment and then fled prior to the officers arriving.

On December 19, 2018 police were dispatched to the premises after a victim reported that a suspect put a gun to his head and threatened him. The victim later became uncooperative and no charges were filed.

On February 21, 2019 police were informed of a robbery at the premises. The victim stated that he was showing an individual, described as a six-foot tall white male with green hair, “where his cousin lived so that the [individual] could buy some weed.” The individual subsequently assaulted the victim, taking his money and cellphone. While a witness confirmed the victim’s account, the victim later decided not to pursue charges against the suspect.

On March 30, 2019 police received a report of shots fired at the premises. Responding officers found spent shell casings in the roadway and fresh bullet holes in the exterior walls. The officers also encountered an individual wanted in Montgomery County on active felony warrants for receiving stolen property, theft, identity fraud, and forgery.

On June 24 and June 26, 2019, Columbus Police narcotics detectives conducted covert purchases of crack cocaine at the premises. Officers subsequently executed a search warrant and seized a loaded 9mm handgun, a loaded assault rifle, crack cocaine, heroin, and \$1717 in cash.

In October 2019, Franklin County Sheriff’s detectives received information that narcotics were being sold at the premises. On November 19, 2019, detectives from the Sheriff’s drug task force executed a search warrant and seized 57 grams of heroin, cocaine, a handgun and a shotgun.

**“This property was an epicenter of narcotics activity and it is our hope that the court order can provide much needed relief to the residents of the Hilltop,” said Assistant City Attorney Zach Gwin.**

A hearing for preliminary and permanent injunctive relief against the property owners is scheduled for Monday, December 2, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

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 owners 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, Gwin, who is the Zone Initiative Attorney assigned to Police Zone Three on the west side of Columbus, is seeking to prove that the owners are guilty of maintaining a nuisance by establishing that they “knew of, participated in, or acquiesced to the activity which constituted the nuisance” as prescribed by [Chapter 3767](#) of the Ohio Revised Code.

A copy of the court [order](#) is available online.