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City Attorney Zach Klein Announces Agreement to Move Majority of Operations away from Wilson Road Bus Terminal

Klein says agreement is a step forward to address neighborhood concerns, maintain access to transportation options, and continue search for permanent interstate bus terminal site

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein today announced Barons Bus and Greyhound Lines, operators of the Wilson Road bus terminal, have agreed to a plan to drastically reduce operations at the premises while the search for a long-term interstate terminal site continues. The agreement will prohibit the pickup and drop off of passengers at the Wilson Road facility, limiting operations only to ticket sales and bus transfers. Pickup and drop off will move entirely offsite. Heightened safety and security measures will remain in place.

“Signing a court order to drastically reduce operations, address congestion and overcrowding issues, and maintain strict safety and security measures at the Wilson Road Terminal is a win for neighbors and the City,” said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. **“From the start, I’ve said that our priorities are to make this site safe and secure for passengers and surrounding neighbors and to work toward a long term solution that moves operations to a permanent, more appropriate site. This agreement is a positive next step on both fronts.”**

According to the terms of the agreement, within the next 30 days, Barons must submit an updated site plan to the City for review. Within 120 days of the order, Barons and Greyhound must transition the property to be used for ticket sales and bus passenger transfers only. City Attorney Klein says that the 120-day window will allow for existing tickets and schedules to be honored.

Additionally, terms of the agreement prohibit operators from scheduling any layovers of more than two hours and scheduling to have more than four buses on the property at any one time.

For the next 180 days, Barons and Greyhound are required to maintain at least two properly licensed security guards at all times, and in addition, the operators will be required to reduce outdoor amplified sound between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m., maintain cameras, lights and security

systems, offer restrooms with running water, conduct daily trash pickup, and have drinking water available for passengers.

Pickup and drop-off locations will move entirely to alternative locations according to the agreement, including one location at the John Glenn Columbus International Airport, another at The Ohio State University campus, and a third, to-be-determined location that operators will work with COTA and the City to identify within the 120-day transition period.

In addition to alternative pickup and drop off sites and a drastic reduction in operations at the West Side Terminal, the agreement also lays the groundwork for a continued permanent site selection process, including terms that require operators to disclose at any time the progress of their efforts to find a more appropriate location for a permanent terminal.

“The City has been in regular communication with neighbors throughout this process, and we are encouraged by the steps operators have agreed upon to address many of the issues that have plagued this property,” said City Attorney’s Property Action Team Chief Steve Dunbar. **“If at any point we see Barons or Greyhound deviate from this plan or refuse to work with the City, we will not hesitate to bring them before the Court and hold them accountable. Safety and access to these services remain our priority.”**

A status conference between the parties is set for early July.