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City Attorney Zach Klein Announces City Reaches Preliminary Agreement in Data Breach Lawsuit

Says agreement continues to balance protections for sensitive data while preserving rights to free speech

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein today announced his office reached an agreement with Mr. David Leroy Ross, Jr. on a preliminary injunction submitted to the Court Wednesday. The agreement protects sensitive data exposed in the cyber intrusion from being disseminated while also allowing Ross to maintain a dialogue with the City regarding the breach. Like the temporary restraining order issued August 29, this agreement does not impact Ross' ability to discuss the intrusion or describe what kinds of data were exposed, including to members of the media.

City Attorney Klein's full statement is below:

“The City and our counsel met with Mr. Ross several times over the past week. While the content of these conversations is confidential, I can say that these discussions were positive and led to an agreement submitted to the Court that prevents sensitive data from being disseminated, protects public safety and respects free speech.

“Like many, I remain concerned about anyone having access to this sensitive data, and as this investigation into the cyber intrusion continues, the City Attorney's Office will continue to keep the best interest of residents, victims, police officers and our city at heart. That remains our top priority.”

According to the agreed preliminary injunction, Mr. Ross is prohibited from disseminating City data that he has obtained that identifies Personal Identifiable Information, which includes Social Security Numbers, driver's license numbers, bank account information, credit card numbers, and personal medical information, among other sensitive information. He also is prohibited from disseminating any data from the City's MATRIX Prosecutor or Crime databases.

The City Attorney's Office also agreed to extend the response date to the City's civil lawsuit by an additional 28 days. The response date is now pushed to October 30.