



# ZACH KLEIN

COLUMBUS CITY ATTORNEY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Tuesday, November 19, 2024  
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## City Attorney Zach Klein Announces Launch of Coordinated Program to Address Outstanding Warrants for Non-Violent Offenders

*Klein says Tap In Center allows for timely resolution to certain non-violent cases and provides access to critical services for underserved communities*

**COLUMBUS, OH**—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein today announced the launch of the Tap In Center, a coordinated effort between the City of Columbus and Franklin County to assist residents with outstanding low-level, non-violent misdemeanor warrants. The program allows individuals to meet with the Court to set aside their warrant and begin the process of resolving their case. Klein noted that those with warrants for violent crimes are ineligible for assistance at the Center and must turn themselves in to be prosecuted. The first Tap In Center session is set for **today, Tuesday, November 19**, from **3 to 7 p.m.** at the **Whitehall Branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library**.

**“Violent criminals who have no regard for the law or human life need to be held accountable and put in jail for a long time. That has been and will continue to be the approach of the City Attorney’s Office,”** said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. **“But there is another subset of individuals who commit non-violent offenses, often out of need, who have outstanding warrants that prevent them from getting a job or providing for their families. The Tap In Center gives these folks the opportunity to put those warrants aside, get back into the court system to resolve their cases, and be the moms, dads, and citizens they want to be.”**

Modeled after a similar successful program in St. Louis, the Tap In Center is funded by a Justice Assistance Grant and held monthly at various public libraries throughout Franklin County. At the Center, individuals with certain low-level, non-violent warrants can have their warrants set aside and cases rescheduled to move through the court system. There are currently more than 55,000 outstanding warrants for low-level, non-violent misdemeanors in Franklin County.

The program also brings together a number of community partners and social service providers, including the BMV, Department of Job and Family Services, and the Public Defenders Office, to offer critical services to those utilizing the Tap In Center.

**“Columbus prosecutes thousands of misdemeanor cases each year, but there continues to be a backlog of non-violent cases that remain in warrant status where nothing is being done to move the case through the system. The Tap In Center will help to begin the process of resolving these cases without the stigma and consequences of an arrest for something as simple as missing a court date or a clerical error,”** said Chief Prosecuting Attorney Melanie Tobias.

The initial Tap in Center sessions will be held on Tuesday, November 19, and Tuesday, December 17, from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Whitehall Branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library, 4445 E. Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43213.

Services are available by appointment only. Residents can contact the Tap in Center hotline at 614-525-4488 to schedule an appointment or visit the [Tap in Center Website](#) for more information. For residents unsure about their eligibility or seeking other types of legal assistance, the Franklin County Public Defender’s Office can be reached at 614-525-3194.