



# ZACH KLEIN

## COLUMBUS CITY ATTORNEY

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Contact: Pete Shipley, 614.965.0203  
Email: [pjshipley@columbus.gov](mailto:pjshipley@columbus.gov)

## City Attorney Zach Klein Launches Project to Distribute Ring Doorbells to Reduce Crime and Improve Neighborhood Safety

*Porch Protection Program aims to reduce package theft, improve safety in ten highest crime ZIP codes across Columbus*

**COLUMBUS, OH**— Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein today announced the launch of the Porch Protection Program, a pilot project funded through the American Rescue Plan that aims to reduce package theft and improve neighborhood safety by equipping lower income households living in higher crime areas with camera-equipped doorbells. Households have until December 9 to apply to enter the lottery to receive a camera.

**“Camera-equipped doorbells are an easy deterrent to crime and package theft, especially important now during the holidays,”** said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. **“This program can give families peace of mind, reduce theft in higher crime areas, and cut down on police calls for service. It’s a win-win for families and public safety.”**

The Porch Protection Program will distribute more than 700 camera-equipped doorbells to households across the ten Columbus ZIP codes with the highest crime rates and police calls for service over the past year.

The program gives households the ability to capture video and/or photos of would-be criminal activity in real time, speak to package delivery drivers, and monitor entryway activity remotely from a smartphone. While the program will distribute cameras for real time monitoring free of charge, the cost of any additional, premium subscription-based services will be the responsibility of owners.

Eligible households can apply to enter the lottery to receive a camera. Entry into the lottery does not guarantee a camera. All applications must be received by the City Attorney’s Office by December 9, with in person pickup events the following week. Winning households will be chosen at random and will be contacted by the City Attorney’s Office with information on when to pick up their Ring camera. There is a strict limit on one entry and one camera per household.

To be eligible to apply to the Porch Protection Program, households/applicants must:

- Be 18 years of age or older,
- Own their home or receive written notice from a landlord allowing a camera to be installed at their rental unit,
- Earn up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level,
- Not be employed by or closely related to an employee of the City of Columbus,
- Live in a qualifying ZIP code: 43201, 43204, 43207, 43211, 43219, 43223, 43224, 43228, 43229, or 43232,
- Have wireless internet access at their home.

City Attorney Klein also noted that law enforcement will not have access to any real time or archived footage captured by the cameras. That data is strictly the possession of the household that owns the camera.

Households can apply for the program by visiting <https://city-attorney.columbus.gov/porch-protection-program.aspx>.

The program is funded by the American Rescue Plan, which was signed into law by President Joe Biden in 2021.