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# City Attorney Zach Klein Provides Update on Fort Rapids as Court Appoints Receiver to Temporarily Secure and Manage Property

*Says that limited receivership is positive next step to ensure a long-term plan for the site that strengthens the east side of Columbus*

**COLUMBUS, OH**—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein today provided an update on the status of the former Fort Rapids waterpark located on the east side of Columbus. Klein said that Environmental Court Judge Stephanie Mingo issued a *sua sponte* order—an order filed without a motion from either party—appointing a receiver to take over management of the property, which remains in violation of court orders and noncompliant with fire and safety codes as daily fines continue to mount. The order follows a Probate Court-ordered sale of the property earlier this year and a recent fire sustained at the property in October.

**“For too long, this site has been a blight on the east side, and a receiver stepping in to secure, preserve and maintain the property is a step in the right direction following the negligence and downright dangerous state of the property under current ownership,”** said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. **“Receivers are ready to secure the property and ensure that it does not further deteriorate as we work toward a long-term plan that reinvests in the east side of Columbus.”**

The Court ordered that New Perspective Asset Management immediately take over care of the property as receivers in a limited capacity to secure, preserve and maintain the property while the ongoing legal cases regarding the future of the property remain in court.

According to a status conference update to the Court earlier this month, there was a large hole in the roof of the property following the October fire, and a chain link fence on the perimeter of the property was open, in disrepair and no longer securing the property. Additionally, it was reported to the Court that due to the fire, there is substantial structural damage to at least a portion of the property that will require demolition.

In June, Judge Stephanie Mingo held current owners in contempt for repeatedly failing to bring the dilapidated property into compliance with safety codes, awarding the City \$199,000 in contempt fines and doubling daily fines against property owners, which now total \$2,000 per day, until the property is brought into compliance. The Court also ordered jail time for the defendant, Jeff Kern, for failing to attend a hearing and submit required plans for a full rehabilitation of the property. No fines have been paid to date.