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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, February 12, 2026
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City Attorney Zach Klein announces the board up of vacant Hilltop property with long history of drug activity, sex crimes and squatting

Says case reflects commitment of City, law enforcement, and residents working together to strengthen Columbus neighborhoods block by block

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein today announced the Property Action Team secured a court order to board up a Hilltop property located at 2263 Shelton Street that has seen numerous arrests on site, drug activity, prostitution, squatting, and shots fired over the past year. The board up follows months of collaborative work by the Property Action Team, Columbus Division of Police (CPD), Code Enforcement, and concerned Hilltop residents.

“Safety begins at home, and it begins in neighborhoods,” said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. **“Residents and parents shouldn’t have to worry about crime and run-down properties that attract crime and threaten the safety of our kids. That’s why the City, law enforcement and residents are working together to reclaim these troubled properties one at a time, to strengthen our neighborhoods and build a better Columbus, block by block.”**

According to court documents, the property has become a haven for code violations, drug use, and prostitution. Over the past year, Columbus Police have arrested numerous individuals at the property with outstanding warrants camping on the outside of the property or staying in two sheds on the property’s rear. Officers have also repeatedly observed drug paraphernalia on the property.

In November 2024, CPD received reports of shots fired at the property, and when they arrived on scene, they found shell casings. They again responded to reports of gunshots in January 2025.

Over the past year, Police received multiple complaints about trespassers, people entering the vacant home, leaving trash around the property, and sleeping on the porch and in the yard. Additional reports indicated individuals living in the property's sheds.

On August 21, 2025, CPD Detectives sent owners notice via certified mail that their property was a public nuisance. That notice was signed and returned, with owners acknowledging their duty to clean up the property or risk legal action.

Just days later, on August 25, 2025, neighbors were again reporting people breaking into the house and sleeping on the property's exterior.

In October 2025, Columbus Fire personnel responded to an overdose at the property and administered Narcan to the individual. That same day, CPD arrested two people at the property on outstanding felony warrants. Over the next few weeks, CPD arrested two more people on the property who had outstanding warrants.

In recent months, CPD responded to additional reports of drug use and prostitution and made several more arrests of people with outstanding warrants.

Just last week, a person was found sleeping in a tent on the porch of the house, and when Columbus Police approached the individual, they found drug paraphernalia in the tent. The person was then arrested on an outstanding warrant.

“We want to know about any property that starts to become a problem so we can address it before it becomes a threat to the health and safety of the neighborhood,” said Property Action Team Attorney Rob Doersam. **“It’s critical for residents who see something to say something. Report to our office, 311 or the Division of Police so we can address with owners or build a case to hold them accountable and keep our neighborhoods safe.”**

At the time of this release, CPD has already boarded up the property.