

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Thursday, November 7, 2024 Contact: Pete Shipley, 614.965.0203 Email: <u>pishipley@columbus.gov</u>

City Attorney Zach Klein's Property Action Team Reaches Preliminary Agreement to Clean up Sullivant Avenue Market

Klein says agreement puts measures in place to improve safety at Rosco's Market, but all options—including closure—remain on the table if owners do not comply with court order

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein today announced that the Property Action Team reached a preliminary agreement with the owners of a west side market that has been a haven for criminal activity in recent years. The City says the signed agreement will help curb nuisance and criminal activity and improve safety at the property, but all options remain on the table, including closure, should owners fail to comply with the Court's order.

"We want businesses to succeed, but not at the expense of public safety. This agreement allows the market to remain open, but with significant measures in place to improve safety and clean up what's been a nuisance in the Hilltop for far too long," said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. "We will remain in contact with owners and the Division of Police to monitor this property, and all options remain on the table should owners fail to adhere to the agreement and nuisance activity continues—including closure."

City Attorney Klein's Property Action Team filed a lawsuit against the owners of Rosco's Market, located at 2500 Sullivant Ave., in October, alleging that the business has been a haven for prostitution, drug-related activity, violence and various liquor and code violations in recent years.

According to the agreement submitted to the Court Thursday, property owners must maintain regular, daily trash pickup, maintain a list of all individuals trespassed from the premises and allow CPD access to that list upon request, ban known individuals who have conducted sex work on the premises, and cease selling any drug paraphernalia or cannabis products on site.

"This preliminary agreement is the next step to restoring safety and security not only at this property, but also along Sullivant Ave. We will continue to work with owners and CPD to ensure compliance with the Court's order," said Property Action Team Attorney Rob Doersam.