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### City Attorney Settles after Suing Owner of Gas Station Plagued by Drugs and Violence

*Deshler Park area business was the scene of hundreds of police runs, including a homicide, narcotics offenses, drug overdoses, gun violence, and underage alcohol sales*

**COLUMBUS, OH**—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein announced today that his office reached a settlement agreement after filing a nuisance abatement lawsuit against a *Mobil* gas station that was a persistent danger to customers and employees alike. The Columbus Division of Police received over 280 calls for service to the property in the last year, including at least 29 shootings, seven reports of a person with a gun, five narcotics complaints, two drug overdoses, two arrests related to the illegal sales of alcohol and one homicide.

Klein filed a motion for injunctive relief in the Franklin County Environmental Court against the gas station, which is located at [1509 Lockbourne Road](#), and entered into a stipulated agreement with the owner that calls for a one-month closure and a list of more than 30 terms and conditions that must be implemented and maintained.

**“Public safety will always be our number one priority as we continue to use our legal authority to help protect neighborhoods against irresponsible businesses and property owners,” Klein said. “Columbus residents shouldn’t have to fear for their personal safety when simply trying to put gas in their car or get a snack from a convenience store.”**

According to court documents, in the last four months of 2020 Columbus police received 12 reports of shots fired at the premises, including incidents on November 8, 2020 when the ShotSpotter alert system recorded 25 rounds fired, and December 28, 2020 when 15 rounds were fired.

Since the beginning of this year, police have received 24 reports of either shots fired, a person with a gun, or a ShotSpotter alert at the premises.

On January 15, 2021 officers arrested an employee for selling alcohol to a minor. On March 2, 2021 another employee was arrested for the same offense.

On February 9, 2021 police received a call that an individual had overdosed on fentanyl at the premises.

On July 29, 2021 a shootout involving approximately 40-50 rounds of exchanged gunfire occurred at the premises, resulting in a homicide.

**“The alarming amount of gun violence at this property was an ongoing danger to the surrounding neighborhood and a significant drain on public resources,” said Assistant City Attorney Heidi Carr, who is the Zone Initiative attorney assigned to Police Zone Five. “With this agreed court order, the owner is responsible for implementing and maintaining a host of safety measures—or will face the consequences.”**

Some of the stipulations of the settlement between the parties include:

- The premises will be closed from September 20-October 20, 2021.
- All liquor violations are strictly prohibited, including underage alcohol sales.
- A point-of-sale identification reader must be in full operation at all times.
- There shall be no sale, use, or possession of illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia.
- High-Definition security cameras must be maintained and operated during all hours of operation.
- On-site security must be provided during all hours of operation.
- The premises is currently open 24 hours a day but must now close each day at midnight and may not reopen until at least 6:00 a.m.
- The defendant agrees to implement any additional recommendations following a security assessment of the premises by the Columbus Division of Police.
- The defendant shall be assessed any and all costs associated with the agreement.

A full list can be found on the attached agreed [court order](#).

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