



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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City Attorney Zach Klein Announces Charges Filed in Softball Umpire Assault Case

Klein says incidents like this are driving many sports officials away from the games they love

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein today announced multiple charges have been filed against a Columbus man accused of physically assaulting an adult recreational league softball umpire last week. City prosecutors charged the defendant, Mr. Gregory Roudabush, with a first degree misdemeanor assault charge as well as a fourth degree disorderly conduct charge.

“The majority of sports officials aren’t in it for the money, but to give back to the sports they love. The assault on the umpire in Columbus is the nightmare scenario for any official and part of the larger problem of why we continue to see a decline in sports officials both locally and across the country. Threats and violence have no place in sports or in our community,” said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein, who has spent over 20 years as a basketball referee beginning as an intramural referee in college and working at all levels of basketball, most recently as an NCAA Division-I Women’s Basketball official.

The assault occurred during a Columbus Recreation and Parks Department adult slowpitch softball league at Lou Berliner Sports Complex, where the defendant struck the umpire in the face following the defendant’s ejection from the game for arguing.

Members of the opposing team rushed to aid the umpire, pulling the defendant away from the victim. No other individuals were involved in the incident and no additional charges have been filed at this time.

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