

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Wednesday, March 30, 2022 Contact: Pete Shipley, 614.965.0203 Em ail: <u>pjshipley@columbus.gov</u>

City Continues to Push Eastside Property Owners to Fix Up Eastland Mall Site

Court filings describe worsening conditions, outline necessary actions to remediate violations and get property into compliance

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein today announced additional health and safety code violations have been filed against Eastland Mall Holdings LLC, owners of the majority of the Eastland Mall property on the city's east side, as well as IGWT Properties LLC, who owns a parcel of land at the mall site that formerly housed Sears, one of the mall's anchor tenants.

"Conditions at Eastland continue to deteriorate, and immediate action is needed to protect the health and safety of the general public and patrons of the mall," said City Attorney Zach Klein. "We want to see current ownership step up to make these fixes, but we are prepared to pursue every legal avenue to ensure this economic driver on our City's east side is safe, vibrant and positioned for the future."

The City initially filed nuisance abatement cases against Eastland Mall Holdings LLC in April 2021, following multiple inspections by Code Enforcement who noted numerous health, safety and zoning violations, including inadequate lighting, potholes in parking areas, structural issues and unauthorized zoning, among other issues.

According to court documents, Eastland Mall Holdings LLC received notice of emergency code violations earlier this month, including unsecure doorways in vacant buildings, as well as an open sinkhole in the parking lot and electrical issues on the premises.

The next court date for Eastland Mall Holdings is scheduled for June 13, 2022 at noon.

The City of Columbus also filed a nuisance case against IGWT Properties LLC in January 2022, citing multiple inspections throughout the prior year where Code Enforcement inspectors found numerous inoperable vehicles parked and stored at the property without proper zoning clearance for such storage. Additionally, inspectors noted the parking lot on the premises was in a state of disrepair and required maintenance.

The next court date for IGWT Properties LLC is set for June 13, 2022 at noon.

<u>Court documents are attached (2021 EVH060179).</u> <u>Court documents are attached (2022 EVH060048).</u>