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Columbus Boards Up West Side Condo Owned by Alleged Drug Dealer

Property was the scene of drug trafficking, shootings, overdoses, and domestic violence

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein announced today that the City of Columbus obtained a temporary restraining order to shut down a crime-plagued condominium that was the location of dozens of police runs for narcotics complaints, drug overdoses, domestic violence and shootings. It's the 11th drug-related nuisance property the city has boarded up in police zone three on the west side this year.

Klein filed a complaint for preliminary and permanent injunctive relief in the Franklin County Environmental Court against [1117 Hardesty Place East](#), an owner-occupied unit in the Hardesty Village condominium complex located near Hilltonia Park, Franklinton High School, and Lindbergh Elementary School in the city's South Central Hilltop neighborhood. The Columbus Division of Police evacuated and enforced the court's order to board up the premises earlier today.

“The drug trafficking and criminal activity occurring at this condo was dangerous and serves as a reminder that addiction continues to impact all pockets of our community,” said Klein. **“We want Columbus residents to know that in partnership with the Columbus Division of Police, we will continue to target the drug dealers who prey on folks in our community who are struggling with addiction.”**

According to court documents, since 2019 Columbus police have responded to the premises for two shootings, nine narcotics complaints, 11 domestic violence or domestic disturbance calls, and 11 drug overdoses, one of which ultimately resulted in the fatality of the property owner's girlfriend.

On September 3, 2020, officers responded to a shooting and found the property owner sitting on a chair outside on the patio as he was bleeding from his left leg. He stated that he was “in shock and bleeding out” after being shot during an altercation. Three witnesses present at the time of the shooting were convicted felons—one of whom had active arrest warrants for felonious

assault and drug possession, and another who was on parole for drug trafficking. None of the witnesses identified the shooter to the officers.

On September 27, 2020, police received a complaint from a caller who indicated that the property owner “had been shot in a drug deal gone wrong.” The caller also stated there had been “a ton” of recent drug traffic at the premises.

On November 22, 2020, officers responded to a call of someone being beaten in the residence and eventually located a wanted fugitive in the basement who was found to be illegally carrying a firearm. The individual was arrested on the active warrant and also charged with possession of a weapon under disability.

On May 9, 2021, police responded to a shooting at the premises and spoke to the property owner, who claimed his old roommate came to the back door and shot at him. Officers found four casings near the rear of the condo. The former roommate was identified and found to have an outstanding arrest warrant for felony drug possession.

“I’m not sure what the condo association’s bylaws have to say about a boarded up unit, but the owner unfortunately was not willing to work with us to abate the criminal conduct occurring at his property,” said Assistant City Attorney Zach Gwin, who is the Zone Initiative attorney for the city’s west side. “In fact, the evidence points to his involvement in much of the dangerous criminal activity—both as a victim and as a perpetrator.”

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