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Columbus Shuts Down Dangerous Linden Property Linked to Drug and Sex Trafficking

City Attorney Klein says criminal activity at the property threatened public safety and that Linden is safer after CPD boards up property

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein announced today that the City of Columbus shut down a drug house in the city’s Linden neighborhood. The property has been the site of more than 20 calls for police service in the past two years and has extensive connections to drug and sex trafficking. Columbus Police (CPD) executed an order to board up the property at 2903 Azelda Street in Linden. The board up comes in conjunction with CPD’s Operation Unity, a coordinated effort to crack down on crime and problem properties. This operation focused on Police Zone 4, including the Linden neighborhood.

“The City is committed to rooting out problem properties that threaten public safety, push dangerous narcotics into our streets and provide a haven for sex trafficking and violence,” said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. **“Linden residents deserve better, they deserve a neighborhood where they can feel safe and secure raising their families, and we’re a step closer to that reality after shutting this property down.”**

According to court documents, the property has an extensive history of narcotics sales and prostitution. In August 2022, CPD patrol officers were flagged down by a woman claiming she was robbed at the premises. Later that month, CPD received a report of drug activity at the premises.

Over a five-day period in September and October 2022, CPD surveilled the property and witnessed hundreds of people enter and exit through the front door of the premises, with most individuals staying for just minutes at a time.

In October 2022, CPD obtained and executed a search warrant on the premises, recovering fentanyl, crack cocaine, pills, other drugs and a firearm.

From March 2021 to March 2023, CPD responded to 23 calls for service at the premises, including for shots fired, narcotics complaints, accidental overdose, ShotSpotter alerts, suspicious vehicle and person with a gun.

“This drug house threated public safety, residents and neighbors,” said Assistant City Attorney Louisa Edzie. **“Linden is now safer with this drug house boarded up and fewer drugs flowing into our streets.”**

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