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Federal Judge in Columbus SNAP case orders Trump administration to begin payments no later than Nov. 5

City Attorney Klein provides update as Court issues its written order on Trump-Vance administration's illegal attempts deny food assistance to 42 million Americans

COLUMBUS, OH— Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein today announced several updates in the City's federal lawsuit against the Trump-Vance administration's refusal to fund food assistance amid the ongoing government shutdown. On Friday, a federal judge issued an oral order from the bench requiring the administration to pay out available Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) contingency funds to 42 million Americans, including 1.4 million Ohioans. The judge has since released a written order, which states:

- The Trump-Vance administration likely broke the law when it failed to fund SNAP benefits.
- The order applies nationwide.
- \$6 billion in SNAP contingency funds appropriated by Congress must be used now.
- If the \$6 billion in contingency funds are insufficient to fully fund SNAP, the Trump administration must look at additional available discretionary funding sources.
- If the administration chooses to release full SNAP payments, it must send payments no later than the end of the day on Tuesday, November 4.
- If the government can only make partial payments due to insufficient contingency and discretionary funds, those payments must be made no later than Wednesday, November 5.
- The Trump administration must respond to the court no later than Monday, November 3, at noon to report what it is doing to comply with the order.

Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein issued a statement following the update from the court:

“The Court has ordered the Trump administration to release available food assistance funding immediately, and those who rely on SNAP to feed their families should see their benefits by mid-week—so long as this administration follows the Court’s order.

“The truth is, we never should have been here. Columbus never should have had to rally alongside other cities and partners to sue an administration that chose to weaponize hunger and upend the lives of 42 million Americans for political gain. But we’re here, and we’ve won a significant victory for residents, families, children, seniors, veterans, and all those who rely on SNAP to put food on the table. We will continue to push to see that President Trump follows the law, obeys the Court, and delivers the benefits folks are counting on. We will not let up on this legal fight and in our calls to Congress to reopen the government and end the uncertainty not just for SNAP beneficiaries, but for all those impacted by this prolonged government shutdown.”