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Property Action Team Secures Court Order to Shutter Weinland Park Hookah Bar Plagued by Violent Crime

City Attorney Zach Klein says emergency action necessary due to significant public safety threat posed to area residents

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein today announced the Property Action Team secured a temporary restraining order to shut down the MIA Hookah Café located at the corner of 5th and Summit in the Weinland Park neighborhood. The business has been the scene of multiple violent crimes in recent months, including a triple homicide in May and another shooting this past weekend. CPD executed an order to board up the property.

“Public safety is our top priority, so the moment we had the evidence to tie this business to the crime and violence in that area, we took action. Now, the hookah bar is shut down and this corner of Weinland Park is safer for residents and families,” said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. **“Thanks to the Division of Police and the Property Action Team for their work on this case, and to all the concerned neighbors who reached out to the City. We will continue to do everything we can to ensure this corner does not continue to be a haven for crime and chaos.”**

According to court documents, CPD has received 19 calls for service to the hookah lounge, including for shots fired, assaults, fights, and reports of stolen vehicles.

On May 18, 2024, CPD responded to a shots fired emergency call in the area of the two businesses. In total, five people were shot, three of whom were killed.

On May 24, 2024, the CPD PACT Unit along with the Ohio Investigative Unit conducted a nuisance abatement inspection at the hookah bar in response to the mass shooting, citing owners for four violations related to illegal possession of liquor and three violations related to poor sanitary conditions.

On September 27, 2024, CPD responded to the hookah bar on the report of a shooting. When they arrived to the scene, four people had been shot.

In addition to the action against the MIA Hookah Café, City Attorney Klein noted that the Property Action Team also intends to go after the nearby Del Baggio Pizzeria, which has also seen an uptick in criminal activity in recent months. According to court documents, CPD has received more than a dozen calls for service to the premises, including four calls for assaults, a shooting and an individual with a firearm.

On January 9, 2024, CPD responded to the premises on a shots fired call, and on March 14, 2024, CPD responded to the report of an assault in which the caller stated that eight individuals were fighting at the premises.

On April 13, 2024, CPD responded to the premises on report that an intoxicated individual was assaulting people in the parking lot, and just over a week later, on April 22, CPD responded to a report that an individual was attacked and assaulted by two individuals at the premises. CPD responded to yet another assault at the premises in September.

The City intends to make its case to declare Del Baggio a public nuisance at the preliminary injunction hearing in this case in the coming weeks.

“The corner of Fifth and Summit has been on our radar for some time, and thanks to CPD and concerned neighbors, we were able to build a strong case to hold these owners accountable for the crime and chaos that has happened under their watch,” said Assistant City Attorney Christopher Clark, a member of the City Attorney’s Property Action Team.

MIA Hookah Café is located at 132 E. Fifth Ave. and Del Baggio Pizzeria is located at 127 E. Fifth Ave..