



Contact: Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr.
Phone: 614.645.6904
Email: rcpfeiffer@columbus.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City Shuts Down Third Crime-Plagued Hotel in North Columbus

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr. announced that the City of Columbus filed a complaint for temporary and permanent injunctive relief to close the doors on another problem hotel located near the I-71 and S.R. 161 interchange in north Columbus.

The latest target is the *Super 8* hotel, located at 1078 E. Dublin Granville Rd. and owned by Northland Hotel, Inc. Pfeiffer filed the complaint against the company and its managing partners in the Franklin County Environmental Court yesterday morning.

After Judge Daniel R. Hawkins granted the city's request for a temporary restraining order, the hotel is being evacuated and boarded up this morning.

"We are pleased the court agreed there was sufficient evidence to justify temporarily shutting down the hotel until a full hearing is held," said City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr. **"As always, we let the facts speak for themselves."**

There were at least 301 police runs to the *Super 8* in 2012, 311 in 2013, and 112 in the first half of this year.

Several police investigations resulted in the arrest and conviction of numerous individuals for prostitution-related offenses. Covert operations also uncovered evidence of extensive drug dealing, including several purchases of heroin, cocaine, and oxycodone.

"The Division's responsibility to prevent crime and ensure public safety extends to our visitors as well as our residents. Hotels that allow criminal activity are a danger to public safety, making the collaboration with the City Attorney's office essential to our efforts to clean up crime," said Columbus Division of Police Chief Kim Jacobs. **"The teamwork between our agencies is excellent and we truly appreciate the cooperation in achieving outcomes like this."**

The Columbus Division of Police sent certified letters on September 23rd and October 1st of last year and February 24th of this year to the owners of the hotel to notify them that illegal activity was occurring on their premises.

At least five more covert purchases of heroin and oxycodone occurred after the last certified letter was received.

Just a few days ago, on June 21, 2014, police responded to a call of an unresponsive male lying on the floor in room 125. The victim had overdosed on heroin and was transported to a local hospital.

The State Fire Marshal also found several fire code violations during multiple inspections in 2013 and 2014, including stained mattresses, a burned bed, missing emergency lights and fire extinguishers, an out of test date fire alarm system, employees living in hotel rooms, and guests staying for more than the maximum of 30 days allowable under state law.

“We hope hotel owners are starting to understand that public nuisance laws don’t allow them to turn a blind eye to crime or make half-hearted attempts to curtail the problem,” said Assistant City Prosecutor William A. Sperlazza. “The city will continue to pursue problem hotels within the parameters of the law.”

A hearing to consider a permanent injunction against the *Super 8* hotel and its owners is scheduled for July 2, 2014 in the Franklin County Environmental Court.

A copy of the court’s temporary restraining order may be read [here](#).

****Please also note that Officer Scott Clinger will be available for on-site media interviews between 9:30-10:30 a.m. and after 1:00 p.m.****

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