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## One Year After Las Vegas Mass Shooting, Columbus City Attorney Appeals Bump Stock Ruling

*Columbus Pushes Forward to Defend Gun Ordinances, Increase Community Safety*

**COLUMBUS, OH**—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein announced that the City of Columbus filed their opening brief yesterday in their appeal of the trial court judge’s ruling on the bump stock ban included in the gun ordinances passed by Columbus City Council in May of 2018. The brief was filed on October 1<sup>st</sup>, the one-year anniversary of the Las Vegas shooting, the worst mass shooting in United States history which left 58 dead and 800 injured.

In the wake of the October 2017 Las Vegas mass shooting, in which a bump stock was used to spray thousands of rounds of bullets in mere minutes, the City of Columbus chose to include a bump stock prohibition in its gun safety ordinances. The Columbus bump stock ordinance prohibited anyone from knowingly acquiring, having, carrying, or using an illegal rate-of-fire acceleration firearm accessory. This included items commonly referred to as bump stocks, trigger cranks, and slide fires, and also combinations of parts or components that could be used to create such accessories. A violation of the Columbus ordinance carried with it a mandatory minimum of one hundred eighty days in jail and a fine up to \$1,500.

Columbus was not alone. Following the Las Vegas massacre, several states and municipalities across the country prohibited bump stocks, including states as disparate as Vermont, Florida, and Washington, as well as cities such as Denver, Colorado; Columbia, South Carolina; and Lincoln, Nebraska. Here in Ohio, Governor John Kasich called on the Ohio General Assembly to prohibit bump stocks throughout the state.

“We will continue to vigorously defend our common-sense changes to Columbus’ gun laws, and be relentless in our effort to make our community safer from gun violence,” said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. “We remain confident in our position that bump stocks are accessories, which cities have the legal authority to regulate. We appreciate the judges’ time in hearing our appeal on such a critical issue for our community.”

In a split decision, the trial court judge ruled against the City’s bump stock ban, and ruled in favor of Columbus’ ordinance to keep guns out of the hands of domestic violence abusers. In its appeal, the City of Columbus asks the appellate court judges to reverse the decision invalidating the bump stock ordinance, arguing there are both procedural and substantive errors that severely prejudiced the City in this lawsuit, resulting in a fundamentally unfair ruling. Additionally, the City argues that persuasive evidence from gun manufacturers shows that bump stocks are defined as firearms accessories, and therefore are not precluded from being prohibited under current state law.

Eric Tirschwell of the *Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund* serves as co-counsel on the City of Columbus’ appellate brief, which can be viewed [here](#).