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# State Agents Help City of Columbus Shut Down ‘Sports Bar by Day/Illegal After-Hours Club by Night’

*West side property was the scene of stabbings, assault, homicide, violence against women, and multiple liquor violations—including a mysterious beverage referred to as ‘Mama Juana’*

**COLUMBUS, OH**—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein announced that the State of Ohio provided key evidence and testimony in court today as the City of Columbus secured an emergency order to vacate and shutter a west side bar that had doubled as an illegal after-hours club for years. According to court documents, agents from the Ohio Department of Public Safety began investigating Caribe Sports Bar on Sullivant Avenue in late 2017 for a number of infractions. The Columbus Police Division also made over 65 runs to the premises for complaints that included gun activity, fights involving broken jaws and punctured intestines, domestic violence, assault, burglary, and homicide.

City Attorney Klein filed a request for an *ex parte* temporary restraining order in the Franklin County Environmental Court to board up the property located in a strip mall at [3853 Sullivant Avenue](#). The owners of record are Linda Kamel and Belal Abusalha of KAK Investments, Inc. in Galloway, Ohio.

**“While it appears this establishment had been operating as a sports bar by day and an illegal after-hours club by night, the threat of violence was always present,” said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. “We appreciate the collaboration between the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Columbus Police Division, and our office in shutting down this illegal and dangerous operation.”**

On December 30, 2017, Ohio Department of Public Safety agents conducting an inspection of the premises discovered multiple bottles of intoxicating liquor, including a bottle containing “gnats and debris,” as well as a glass jug containing some type of “tree bark and clear liquid.” The strange beverage was labeled “Mama Juana” and allegedly was used to “increase sexual stamina.”

On February 4, 2018, Columbus Police responded to the premises and encountered a female victim who reported that she was assaulted. On March 17, 2018, officers found a female victim who reported that her boyfriend punched her in the face and then kicked her when she fell to the ground.

On February 10, 2019, officers responded to the premises and encountered a female victim who reported that an individual at the bar threw a chair at her and punched her in the face. On February 17, 2019 at 3:06 a.m., officers were called to the premises on report of a person brandishing a gun.

On February 23, 2019 at 2:00 a.m., police responded to the premises and found a victim who reported that he had been speaking to a bar patron who unexpectedly stabbed the victim in the stomach, puncturing his small intestine.

On March 9, 2019, state agents attempted to enter the premises at approximately 3:50 a.m. after observing around 50 cars in the parking lot and lights flashing inside the bar. Upon entry, the agents observed around 60 patrons inside the bar and encountered two of the bar operators, who shouted at them and attempted to bar the agents from entering a room where a .38 caliber revolver was located.

On April 14, 2019 at 3:30 a.m., a female victim stated that an unknown assailant knocked her down, punched her and then pulled her across the floor. On May 5, 2019 at 3:00 a.m., a victim was assaulted by an unknown suspect who struck the victim in the face, breaking his jaw and damaging his front teeth. The severity of the victim's injuries were deemed to be a level-two trauma.

On June 29, 2019 at approximately 5:00 a.m., Columbus Police officers responded to the premises on report of a shooting and found a victim lying in the parking lot. The victim was transported to a nearby hospital where he died a short time later.

On August 11, 2019 at 4:25 a.m., officers were called to the premises due to a fight and encountered a victim who reported that a suspect smashed a beer bottle over his head.

On August 14, 2019, state agents sent a certified letter to the owners of the property where Caribe Sports Bar is located to notify them of the homicide and liquor violations at the premises. They were advised that state law required them to abate the nuisance or face potential legal action. The letter was signed as received but the premises continued to operate illegally.

**“This establishment was operating well beyond the scope of the law on many different levels,” said Assistant City Attorney Zach Gwin. “We hope that by shuttering this nuisance property, we can provide some relief to the neighborhood.”**

A follow-up hearing for a preliminary and permanent injunction against the property owners and the club operators is scheduled for 12:00 p.m. on October 21, 2019. At this hearing, the court can order the property to remain closed for up to one year.

A copy of the city's [complaint](#) is available online.

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