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City and Sanctuary Night Reach Agreement to Implement Plan of Action that Balances Access to Social Services and Public Safety

City Attorney Zach Klein says the organization is now better positioned to ensure safety for neighbors and vulnerable populations who seek assistance at Franklinton nonprofit

COLUMBUS, OH— Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein today announced that the City and Sanctuary Night have filed an agreed upon order with the Environmental Court outlining a number of improvements at the Franklinton-area nonprofit aimed at balancing the needs of the women who come to Sanctuary Night for help and the safety concerns of area residents who have seen an uptick in crime and nuisance activity in recent years. Among the terms of the agreement signed by Judge Stephanie Mingo are a series of safety and security enhancements identified by the Columbus Division of Police.

“This order is a significant and important step towards much-needed safety, security and well-being of the neighborhood and the women who seek refuge at Sanctuary Night,” said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. **“We will remain engaged with Sanctuary Night and neighbors and will not hesitate to take any additional steps to protect public safety should the need arise.”**

The court order requires Sanctuary Night to:

- Prohibit drug or alcohol use or unlicensed distribution of pharmaceuticals at the premises;
- Prohibit camping and ensure the property does not have any operational exterior water or electrical sources after hours to deter loitering;
- Maintain a current trespass list of all those banned from the property and allow police to remove anyone loitering after hours;
- Refrain from serving food to clients or potential clients who identify as male or are otherwise not receiving any additional services from Sanctuary Night;
- Implement CPD-recommended security improvements, including adding additional security cameras, with footage made available to law enforcement upon request, as well as additional signage, lighting and fencing, the removal of

any obstructions, maintaining windows in working order, and hiring special duty officers or security guards during certain hours.

- Contact the City should Sanctuary Night expand the physical footprint of its operations and identify any clients engaged in criminal activity, including theft, drug use, public urination or defecation, within a certain radius of the property.

In February, Property Action Team attorneys sent Sanctuary Night a letter notifying them to address problem activity or face court action. After several months of discussions, the City filed suit last week in an effort to expedite a plan of action that included CPD-recommended safety and security improvements. With that plan now in place, the City intends to monitor compliance and keep channels of communication open with both the nonprofit and area neighbors.

“This court order allows Sanctuary Night to continue its critical mission to care for vulnerable women in a way that gets them the help they need while also promoting public safety,” said Property Action Team Attorney Rob Doersam. **“The City will continue to listen to neighbors, engage staff and work alongside the Division of Police to see that these safety and security improvements are made. That’s been our priority from the start.”**