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City Attorney Zach Klein Announces Agreement to Resolve Cyber Intrusion Lawsuit

Parties sign permanent injunction that continues to protect confidential law enforcement information while preserving rights to free speech

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein today announced his office reached an agreement with Mr. David Leroy Ross, Jr. to permanently extend a preliminary injunction signed in September that protects sensitive data exposed during the July 2024 cyber intrusion on the City's IT infrastructure. The new, agreed permanent injunction will continue to prevent Ross from disseminating any of the stolen data publicly while allowing him to maintain a dialogue with the City regarding the breach.

Like the TRO issued August 29 and agreed preliminary injunction September 11, the agreement has no impact on Ross' ability to discuss the intrusion or describe what kinds of data were exposed, including to members of the media. The agreement has been filed with the court and parties are awaiting the judge's approval.

Additionally, as part of discussions, the City agreed to dismiss its civil lawsuit in the matter.

City Attorney Klein's full statement is below:

“During this crisis, our priority has been to keep the best interest of residents, victims, police officers, and all those impacted at heart. While I remain concerned about anyone having access to this sensitive data, conversations with Mr. Ross have been positive, and all parties have agreed to move forward with an agreement that continues to prevent the dissemination of information, such as confidential law enforcement records, while protecting free speech.

“The City Attorney's Office will continue to assist the official investigation in any way we can, and we stand ready to take legal action should any other actors attempt to disseminate information that would put the lives and safety of residents and law enforcement at risk.”

The agreed permanent injunction continues to prevent Mr. Ross from disseminating City data that he has obtained that identifies Personal Identifiable Information, including Social Security Numbers, driver's license numbers, bank account information, credit card numbers, and personal medical information, among other sensitive information. He also is prohibited from disseminating any data from the City's MATRIX Prosecutor or Crime databases as they may contain confidential Criminal Justice Information (CJI).