



ZACH KLEIN

COLUMBUS CITY ATTORNEY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, December 5, 2024
Contact: Pete Shipley, (614) 965-0203
Email: pjshipley@columbus.gov

City Attorney Zach Klein's Property Action Team Secures Court Order to Shut Down Troubled Avalon Nightclub

Fifth Street club notorious for shootings, fights and violent crime continually failed to follow Court's orders and has been shut down for one year

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein today announced that the Environmental Court ruled in favor of the City and ordered the Avalon night club to be shut down for one year following repeated violations of court orders, violence and criminal activity at the premises. Columbus Police (CPD) executed an order to board up the club located at 205 N. 5th Street on Thursday.

“I want Columbus to have a vibrant nightlife, but it needs to be safe. Owners cannot violate court orders and continue to see violence and criminal activity associated with their business and expect the City to allow it. I appreciate the Court stepping in and shutting this club down. The neighborhood is safer for it,” said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein.

Since January 2023, the Premises received over 78 police and fire calls for service including a shooting, shots fired, assaults, fights, burglaries, an OVI complaint, intoxicated persons needing assistance, and theft. CPD responded to the most recent instance of shots fired at the premises in late November.

City Attorney Klein's Property Action Team also noted that bar owners continually violated court orders, including failing to employ properly licensed security and hire special duty officers during operating hours.

As part of its ruling, the Court also ordered Avalon's liquor license to be placed in safekeeping with the state's Division of Liquor Control for the duration of the club's closure, a \$5,000 contempt fine against owners, and required owners to meet with CPD and any assigned special duty officers prior to any future reopening of the club to discuss safety procedures.

In addition to the Court's ruling, the Avalon night club is also on the Property Action Team's 2024 liquor license renewal objection list, which will come before City Council

before the end of the year, and if approved, before the state's Division of Liquor Control likely in the early months of 2025.

“Operating a business should never come at the expense of public safety,” said Senior Assistant City Attorney Sarah Pomeroy. **“If you operate recklessly, defy court orders and are a nuisance to the neighborhood, we will step in to hold you accountable, and in the most extreme cases, we will ask the Court to shut the business down. Thanks to the Division of Police and community tips for helping us build this case to make this area of downtown safer for residents, workers and visitors.”**

The club's one-year closure period begins today.