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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, May 11, 2023
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City Attorney Zach Klein Statement on Gun Violence in the City of Columbus

Says shared frustration and anger must lead to action on all fronts to improve public safety and strengthen neighborhoods

COLUMBUS, OH— Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein today released the following statement on the ongoing rise in gun violence and homicides in the city, which are up from 2022 rates. The city has recorded 60 homicides to date in 2023. City Attorney Klein is calling for action on all fronts to combat the violence, including investing in more police, doubling down on prosecuting violent and dangerous criminals, growing opportunity for people and families to address the root causes of violence, and urging Republicans at the state and federal level to find the political will to join the vast majority of people who support real, commonsense gun safety reforms.

“Gun violence and senseless tragedies have become all too common in neighborhoods across the city. But we cannot let them become the norm. No doubt, we are all concerned about the recent uptick in gun violence and I share those same concerns. In Linden, the Short North, the South Side, or elsewhere in our city, any instance of gun violence is unacceptable. Residents, business owners, workers and visitors deserve to feel safe and secure.

“As city leaders, we must continue to be clear about what it takes to make our neighborhoods safe: police, prosecution, people, and the political will at the state and federal level to enact effective gun laws. Police need resources and additional personnel to deter crime and respond when it occurs, prosecutors and judges must prosecute violent and dangerous criminals to the fullest extent of the law, and people in our city need the support and opportunity to live a better life. And finally, we need Republican politicians at the state and federal level to find the courage to step up and pass effective, popularly-supported gun laws.

“I hear these concerns from folks all across the city, and I couldn’t agree more. I’m angry and frustrated too. But we can’t give up. If we

work together, we can save lives, improve public safety and continue to build better, safer, stronger neighborhoods.”

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