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City of Columbus Boards Up West Side Drug House

Property was the scene of a fatality, drug dealing, shots fired, and other criminal activity

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein announced today that the City of Columbus secured a temporary restraining order to shut down a crime-plagued Hilltop residence located one block north of West Broad Street. It's the tenth drug-related nuisance property the city has boarded up in police zone three on the west side this year.

Klein filed a complaint for preliminary and permanent injunctive relief in the Franklin County Environmental Court against [135 North Burgess Avenue](#). After the initial filing, the owner of the property entered into negotiation with the City Attorney's office and reached a stipulated agreement to vacate and shutter the premises. The parties have agreed to continue negotiations for a full and complete settlement of the case while the property remains boarded up, with a status conference with the court scheduled for July 15, 2021.

“These residents deserve to live in safe neighborhoods, and I hope our efforts to shut down these dangerous properties send a clear message,” said City Attorney Zach Klein. “We will continue to aggressively target properties like these with such egregious, violent criminal activity.”

On September 2, 2020, Columbus police received a ShotSpotter alert at the premises.

On February 1, 2021, officers responded to a report of a deceased individual inside the premises. The body was found upstairs slumped over.

On February 22, 2021, officers responded to the premises on report of a fight.

On March 1, 2021, officers responded to a report of a domestic violence incident.

During the week of April 12, 2021, detectives from the Investigative/Tactical Unit executed a search warrant and seized more than 200 grams of methamphetamine, cocaine, and other drugs, as well as three semi-automatic weapons and close to \$1400 cash.

“It’s unfortunate that the conditions at this property deteriorated to such an extent that we had to file a complaint with the court, but this is an instance where the property owner eventually agreed to work with us,” said Assistant City Attorney Zach Gwin, who is the Zone Initiative attorney for the city’s west side. “We hope that he’ll continue to negotiate in good faith to find a permanent solution that brings his property back into compliance and protects the health, safety, and well-being of the neighborhood.”

[A copy of the order is attached.](#)

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