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# City of Columbus Shuts Down Illegal Franklinton After-Hours Club Following Violence, Criminal Activity and Code Violations

*City Attorney Klein says CPD tracking potential connection in double homicide case to this location*

**COLUMBUS, OH**—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein announced today that the City of Columbus shut down an illegal after-hours club operating in South Franklinton that has been the scene of criminal activity in recent months. Hundreds of cars have packed the lots adjacent to the building with multiple reports of break-ins, including stolen firearms and other property being taken from vehicles.

According to court documents, the warehouse property located at 754 Harmon Ave. has been operating as “The Underground,” an after-hours club that has on the radar of CPD for months as the department has responded to complaints due to loud music, shots fired, and traffic and parking issues. The property does not hold a liquor permit

**“This illegal nightclub recklessly endangered the lives of patrons and the public. That’s why the City moved swiftly to take action and shut it down. We will never hesitate to take appropriate legal action to protect public safety,”** said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein.

In February, a victim called CPD to report a vehicle break in at the premises, where she claims a handgun was stolen from her vehicle. Later that month, officers checking vehicles in the parking lot found several vehicles with guns in plain view, including one with three visible firearms.

On Feb. 26, 2023, CPD officers were dispatched to the intersection adjacent to the premises on report of several gunshots at the club. When officers arrived, there were more than 200 vehicles and hundreds of people at the premises.

Later that night, Columbus Fire personnel entered the site, witnessed overcrowding and observed that a wall had collapsed. CFD noted additional fire code violations and determined the property to be unsafe, thus ordering patrons to leave the premises.

Shortly after patrons were ordered to leave, a large fight started inside the premises and security officers began spraying the crowd with pepper spray, which caused a panic.

Later on the night of Feb. 26, CPD officers heard several additional gunshots from the premises and witnessed a suspect throw a gun under a vehicle after the shots were heard. Officers attempted to engage the suspect, which resulted in a high speed vehicle pursuit, where the suspect crashed the vehicle causing critical injuries.

On March 5, 2023, shortly after another crowd was dispersed from the Premises, CPD was dispatched to the scene of a double homicide just blocks from the premises involving patrons of the nightclub.

**“The pattern of violence, criminal activity and disregard for safe operation made it necessary for the City to step in and take action,”** said Assistant City Attorney Zach Gwin. **“This area of Franklinton is safer now that this club is no longer in operation.”**

[The court order is attached.](#)

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