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City Shuts Down Bar for Illegal Operation without Liquor Permit and Multiple Reports of Violent Crime

PKWY Lounge & Grill operated without a valid liquor permit and has been the scene of more than 60 calls for service for crime, including shootings, stabbings, fights and theft

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein announced today that the City of Columbus obtained an order to shut down an east side bar illegally operating without a valid liquor license. The premises was also the scene to many calls for service in the past year for violent crime, including shootings, stabbings, and fights. CPD Tuesday executed an order to board up PKWY Lounge & Grill located at 5200 Riding Club Lane on the City's east side.

“Businesses that don’t abide by the law and threaten public safety will be held accountable for their actions. We will shut you down,” said City Attorney Zach Klein. **“This bar was illegally operating without a liquor license, but to make matters worse, it was a hub for gun crimes and lawlessness that threatened the safety of patrons and area residents.”**

According to court documents, the only liquor permit properly issued to the premises was issued to 1714 Zettler LLC, which had been operating at the location as Atlantis Grill & Sports Bar. Prior to the cancellation of the permit, the Division of Liquor Control opened a case against 1714 Zettler LLC for tax problems that could affect the ability to renew or transfer the liquor permit.

In June 2021, PKWY Lounge & Grill applied for a transfer of the permit issued to 1714 Zettler LLC, but the City objected to that transfer request due to violent activity at the premises.

On May 4, 2022, the Division of Liquor Control rejected the 2022-2023 renewal of the liquor permit issued to 1714 Zettler LLC, and denied its transfer to PKWY due to the outstanding tax issues with the original permit. As a result of this order, the premises does not have a valid liquor permit. Regardless, PKWY has continued to operate the business, including illegal liquor sales.

On multiple occasions after May 4, 2022, CPD PACT officers covertly purchased beer and liquor at the premises in violation of the bar's liquor permit holder status.

In addition to the illegal sale of beer and liquor at the premises, there have been over 60 calls for service and/or reports taken by CPD at the premises since Feb. 2021, including shootings, shots

fired, fights and disturbances, stabbings, thefts from motor vehicles, criminal damaging and loud noise.

On Feb. 20, 2021, CPD was dispatched to the premises on the report of multiple gun shots fired following an altercation that began inside the bar.

On March 13, 2021, CPD responded to a report of several shots fired as a result of a fight inside and outside the bar. Multiple vehicles at the premises were struck by bullets.

On March 28, 2021, CPD was dispatched upon reports from bar security that a patron was carrying a handgun. While officers were on scene, an unknown suspect fired gunshots in an adjacent lot used for bar parking.

On Sept. 13, 2021, a woman reported to CPD that she had been assaulted inside the bar.

On Dec, 12, 2021, a fight occurred in the parking lot of the premises, where two persons stabbed each other.

On Jan. 23, 2022, a victim reported a fight to CPD involving shots fired, including gunshots from suspects that waited outside for people they had been fighting with inside the premises.

In March 2022, CPD responded to multiple reports of fights at the premises, including a group of at least 10 persons fighting in the parking lot outside the bar on March 6.

On April 13, 2022, CPD was dispatch on reports of a person inside the bar with a handgun, and on April 30, 2022, CPD arrested an individual for possession of a handgun inside the bar. That individual attempted to flee arresting officers. That same night, CPD was dispatched to the premises following reports of 6-7 gunshots fired at the bar.

On May 1, 2022, CPD was dispatched on reports of a large fight inside the bar.

[The court order on the PKWY Lounge and Grill is attached.](#)

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