

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Friday, February 11, 2022 Contact: Pete Shipley, 614.965.0203 Email: <u>pjshipley@columbus.gov</u>

## **City Shuts Down North Linden Drug House**

Property a revolving door for drug sales and use, violent crime is located on the same street as many homes with children and families

**COLUMBUS, OH**—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein announced today that the City of Columbus obtained emergency court order to shut down a North Linden drug house that has a history of narcotics use and sale and violent crimes.

This afternoon, CPD executed an order to board up the property at 1630 Genessee Ave., which is located near other houses where children and families reside, and short distance from Cleveland Ave., where a church, Islamic worship center and other areas businesses are located.

"We're prioritizing safe neighborhoods for families to live and children to play by going after violent criminals and shutting down drug houses. Today's action is another step to improve the quality of life for residents of North Linden and surrounding neighborhoods," said City Attorney Zach Klein.

According to court documents, CPD has received numerous calls from concerned neighbors regarding the premises, from reports of drug sales and use, to overdoses, gun shots fired and theft. Some neighbors reported finding used needles in their yards and buyers using drugs in their cars and outdoors, just steps away from areas where neighborhood children would play.

CPD has also responded to a number of Shot Spotter alerts for gunfire at the property, and have conducted surveillance operations on multiple occasions, where they observed a steady stream of buyers come and go from the rear of the premises.

In May of 2020, CPD made covert purchases of heroin and fentanyl. CPD then issued a warning letter notifying the owner of criminal activity on the premises. Following multiple additional reports of drug-related activity, CPD made additional purchases of narcotics in November of 2021. CPD sent a second warning letter to the property owner explaining the criminal activity occurring at the premises.

Following another purchase of narcotics in January of 2022, CPD executed a search warrant on the premises at which weapons and narcotics were recovered. Police also observed numerous violations and safety hazards when entering the premises, and were thanked by a number of area residents for taking action against the property following the execution of the warrant.

The court order is attached.