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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, May 17, 2024
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Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein Statement as Franklin County Judge Sides with Cities, Rules State Ban on Local Tobacco Regulations Unconstitutional

Says decision is a significant win for the City of Columbus and allows all local tobacco regulations to remain in effect

COLUMBUS, OH— Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein today issued the following statement as Franklin County Judge Mark Serrott sided with Columbus and a coalition of other cities, ruling unconstitutional a state law that would strip away the rights of cities to regulate the sale of tobacco products at the local level.

Judge Serrott enjoined the law, meaning Columbus' local tobacco regulations, including licensure for local tobacco retailers and the city's ban on the sale of flavored tobacco products, as well as any local regulations in other cities who joined the lawsuit, remain in effect. The State has the opportunity to appeal the ruling.

Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein's statement is below:

“I applaud the Court’s decision siding with cities to declare this law unconstitutional, a decision that upholds home rule and keeps in effect local laws that have worked for decades to improve public health and curb tobacco usage, especially among teens. While we know this may not be the end of this fight, this decision is a significant win for both the City of Columbus and for the health and safety of children and families.”