



ZACH KLEIN
COLUMBUS CITY ATTORNEY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, October 6, 2020

Contact: Tammy Roberts Myers, 614.743.3346

Email: TARoberts-Myers@columbus.gov

Columbus, Cincinnati Join Together to Demand Sufficient Training for School Officials Carrying Firearms on School Property

COLUMBUS, OH—The City of Columbus and the City of Cincinnati joined together today to file an *amicus curiae* brief demanding that school employees who are armed on school property must go through proper peace officer training.

The school board of Madison Local Schools, north of Cincinnati, approved a policy to permit school staff to carry firearms on school property with only 27 hours of training.

In Ohio, state law requires a minimum of 728 hours of basic peace officer training for any school employee who is armed while on duty at a school. The only exception is those who have at least 20 years of active-duty peace officer experience.

“We must end senseless school shootings. Far too often, communities have been shaken to their core when innocent children are tragically murdered in their place of learning,” said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. **“There is an effort afoot to arm adults in schools, and reasonable minds can differ on whether that’s an appropriate approach. One thing we should agree upon, however, is that if adults are armed, they should have proper firearm training. Anything less is being reckless with the lives of our children.”**

A group of parents sued Madison Local Schools in 2018 to stop the district from arming staff with minimal training. The Ohio 12th District Appellate Court decided in the parents’ favor earlier this year, and now the case is before the Ohio Supreme Court

To help maintain a safe learning environment, school systems across the country are authorizing faculty and staff to carry firearms on school property. Members of the *amici curiae* agree that if school districts choose to authorize adults carrying firearms within a school building, these adults must be properly trained on how to use the firearm.

In Ohio, Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy’s basic peace officer training provides a thorough foundation, preparing trainees for such a scenario. Persons without a strong foundation increase the risk of accident, mishap or improper use of force.

###