



ZACH KLEIN

COLUMBUS CITY ATTORNEY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 21, 2020

Contact: Faith Oltman, 614.965.0159

fboltman@columbus.gov

Columbus Shuts Down ‘Barbershop by Day, Illegal After-Hours Club by Night’

East Side property was scene of at least eight shootings, large brawls, illegal alcohol sales, and state fire code violations

COLUMBUS — Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein announced today that the City of Columbus secured an emergency court order to vacate and shutter a dangerous property where the Columbus Division of Police responded more than a dozen times to shots fired and other gun related complaints. The illegal establishment, which was operating in the back of a mostly vacant commercial strip center, was the subject of local and state investigations for illegal alcohol sales. Columbus fire inspectors also reported a series of state fire code violations at the premises.

After the Franklin County Environmental Court granted Klein’s motion for an *ex parte* temporary restraining order, officers evacuated [3301-3309 East Main Street](#) and enforced the court’s order to board up the premises. The building at one point housed a carryout, barbershop and tax preparation business, but the barbershop was currently the only operating business. Patrons of the illegal club often entered through the barbershop.

“Our office continues to utilize civil litigation to stop violent crime and shut down dangerous properties,” Klein said. “We hope that removing this illegal after-hours club will bring a sense of relief to those who live and work nearby.”

According to court documents, Columbus police began receiving calls for service to the premises and surrounding area in June of 2020 for a litany of disturbances, including loud noise, large gatherings, prohibited parking and gunfire.

On June 3, 2020 at approximately 2:36 a.m., officers from the Whitehall Police Department were flagged down and told that a large group of people were gathered in the area. Columbus police were dispatched to the scene and confirmed that eight cars and 20 individuals were at the premises.

On July 12, 2020 at approximately 4:32 a.m., Columbus police were called to the area on report of shots fired.

On August 5, 2020, Columbus police received a complaint that a group of individuals were loitering around the Planned Parenthood office located near the premises.

On August 28, 2020 at approximately 11:23 p.m., Columbus police were called to the area on report of shots fired.

On October 4, 2020, the Columbus Police and Community Together (PACT) Unit began an investigation pursuant to community complaints of illegal alcohol sales at the premises. An undercover detective observed 50-60 individuals between the ages of 17-35 years of age, eating, drinking alcoholic beverages, smoking marijuana and dancing to music. The detective also observed a bathroom, kitchen, DJ booth, dance floor and bar inside the premises.

On October 14, 2020 at approximately 4:32 a.m., Columbus police were called to the area on report of shots fired.

On December 4, 2020 at approximately 3:48 a.m., Columbus police responded to a report that one of the storefronts had been “shot up.”

On December 13, 2020 at approximately 1:25 a.m., Columbus police responded to the premises after receiving a call that there were “50 or so people here at the barbershop ... strippers and people doing drugs and stumbling around in the parking lot.”

On December 21, 2020 at approximately 1:03 a.m., Columbus police responded to a report of a shooting. Officers obtained video surveillance of the incident, which showed the victim knocking on the back door of the premises before being shot.

On January 2, 2021 at approximately 1:32 a.m., Columbus police responded to a noise complaint. Upon arrival, officers observed an individual standing in the alley with a rifle in his hands. The individual stated he was working security for the club.

On January 3, 2021 at approximately 3:39 a.m., Columbus police responded to a report that 30 people armed with guns were fighting outside the club.

On January 17, 2021 at approximately 3:43 a.m., Columbus police responded to a shooting at the premises. Investigators later determined that two gunshot victims were being treated at a nearby hospital. Both individuals stated that the shooting occurred after an altercation started inside the club.

“This establishment was operating well beyond the scope of the law on many different levels,” said Assistant City Attorney Tiara Ross. “We’re pleased the judge granted our request for the emergency board-up order and look forward to presenting our full case at the next hearing.”

A follow-up hearing for a preliminary and permanent injunction against the owner and operator of the building is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on February 1, 2021. At this hearing, the court can order the property to remain closed for up to one year.

###

Editor’s note: [A copy of the signed order is attached.](#)