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Columbus City Attorney Files Motion to Preserve Evidence Days Before ECOT Computers Are Sold

COLUMBUS- Today, the Columbus City Attorney's Office filed a "motion to intervene," in an effort to preserve possible evidence contained in the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow (ECOT) computers scheduled to be sold at an auction tomorrow, Wednesday, May 9, 2018.

The City Attorney has jurisdiction to prosecute misdemeanor crimes committed within the City of Columbus, and therefore has an interest in preserving any possible evidence which could be used in future prosecutions.

Despite the fact that they may contain evidence, it has come to the City's attention that neither the Auditor, nor any law enforcement agency, has conducted any forensic examinations of the computers. Auditor Yost filed a subpoena to preserve the contents of the computers only after being urged to do so by the Court, a mere five days before the scheduled auction. [A May 3rd report](#) in the *Columbus Dispatch* shone light on the pending auction of the ECOT computers.

"Throughout this investigation, there hasn't been any effort to examine these computers for potential evidence," said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. "Whether or not it was intentional by the Auditor, leaving computers untouched when there are allegations of electronic data rigging is seriously troubling."

If the Court allows the auction to go forward on May 9th, evidence could be lost that might be relevant to any potential prosecutions that may arise after the conclusion of the Auditor's investigation.

"We have already sent Auditor Yost a letter outlining our serious concerns about the delay of his audit," said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. "The clock is running, and we hope this does not delay the report even further."

A copy of the motion can be viewed [here](#).

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