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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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In the Wake of Columbus Protests, City Attorney Klein Calls for Swift Reforms

COLUMBUS — Today, Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein issued the following statement addressing the protests held in Columbus over the weekend:

“As the chief legal counsel for the City of Columbus, I soon will have concrete calls for action to address our City’s handling of this weekend’s protests and reform policies to move the city forward, including the swift implementation of many recommendations made by Matrix Consulting and our citizen-led police review commission.

“For generations, our residents have called for change. As it relates to the Columbus Police Division, that means addressing systematic racism impacting the Black community and the way we police our community. We are not alone in that struggle as was painfully clear in Minneapolis, and in cities across the country, this past week.

“We have not listened or acted with the urgency our communities of color deserve. Perhaps the first, best step towards building legitimate trust is owning our shortcomings, our mistakes, and our ability to use positions of public trust to ensure equitable justice for all.

“I hear you and see you, Columbus – as you’ve protested and as hundreds of our residents have reached out to me this weekend. Please know that my office received a summary of all the arrests and charges made this afternoon, and we are reviewing them as swiftly and thoughtfully as possible.

“I pledge to join you and take action now to reform the culture of justice in our city. And I want you to hold me, and all our leaders, accountable.”

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