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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, April 12, 2018
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City of Columbus Files Additional Charges Against Disgraced Chiropractor

31 new counts of sexual imposition filed after new victims come forward

COLUMBUS, OH—Today, Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein announced new criminal charges against former chiropractor Ryan Smith, who operated the Synergy Chiropractic Wellness Clinic in Clintonville before surrendering his license amid a criminal investigation that initially led to 35 counts of sexual imposition being filed against him.

Smith was originally scheduled to be arraigned on April 5, 2018, but the hearing date was postponed until later this month as more victims came forward. At least 47 victims are known to investigators at this time. The 31 new counts of sexual imposition bring the total against Smith to 66.

“It was a priority for our office and for investigators to make sure we heard from all victims who wanted to come forward,” said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. “These victims are not alone, and it’s important they all have a chance to shine light on this terrible abuse.”

Dating back to at least 2013, Smith sexually assaulted female patients during the course of their treatment visits. Victim accounts were consistent in their detail of Smith groping their bare breasts and rubbing his genitalia on them. In several instances, Smith misdiagnosed patients with shoulder injuries in order to grope them.

He was licensed with the Ohio Chiropractic Board starting in 2003 and received official warning letters for sexual misconduct from the board in 2007 and in 2015. He voluntarily surrendered his license on March 29, 2018

Sexual imposition is a third-degree misdemeanor. According to Ohio Revised Code [2907.06\(A\)\(1\)](#):

(A) No person shall have sexual contact with another, not the spouse of the offender; cause another, not the spouse of the offender, to have sexual contact with the offender; or cause two or more other persons to have sexual contact when any of the following applies:

(1) the offender knows that the sexual contact is offensive to the other person, or one of the other persons, or is reckless in that regard.

This conduct is similar to Gross Sexual Imposition (F3) ORC [2907.05](#), which is the felony version of the charged offense. Any potential future felony charges against Smith would be

submitted for grand jury consideration and handled by the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office. In the cases filed by the Columbus Police Division, there was ample evidence of Smith abusing his position of trust to coerce victims into submitting to the sexual imposition but there was not evidence that Smith used force in these incidents.

The statute of limitations to bring misdemeanor criminal charges in the State of Ohio is two years.

“While the accused misconduct dates back several years, at least since 2007, the statute of limitations for misdemeanors in the State of Ohio is two years,” said Columbus Deputy Chief Prosecutor Joseph M. Gibson, who is personally prosecuting the case. “However, it was very important for us to hear from all victims and have their accounts documented regardless of whether the time period fell within the two year window.”

Each misdemeanor count of sexual imposition is punishable by up to [60 days in jail](#). According to [state law](#), the aggregate maximum possible sentence cannot exceed 18 months.

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