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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## City Shutting Down Notorious Strip Club

*East side establishment scene of rampant shootings, assaults, robberies and recent homicide*

**COLUMBUS, OH**—Columbus City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr. announced that the City of Columbus filed a complaint for temporary and permanent injunctive relief to close the doors on a Brice Road area strip club that has been plagued for years by violence, including shootings and assaults and robberies against both employees and customers.

According to the city's complaint, *Rachel's Gentleman's Club* located [at 6065 Channingway Boulevard](#), has drained police resources by generating more than 135 calls for service since 2015. City Attorney Pfeiffer filed the complaint and emergency board up request against the owner of the club, Hetzbach Corporation, and its incorporators, Franz J. Schwarzbach and Ramona C. Hetzel, in the Franklin County Environmental Court this morning.

Judge Daniel R. Hawkins granted the city's request for an emergency restraining order, ordering the club to be evacuated and boarded up on Wednesday, June 21, 2017 at 12:30 p.m.

**“This establishment has been on our radar for quite some time and we are relieved that the city’s persistence has finally paid off,” said City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr.**

Columbus police began investigating the club in 2015 as a result of excessive calls for service to the premises, including multiple reports of violent criminal activity.

- On February 1, 2015 an employee of Rachel's reported she was robbed and assaulted by fellow employees at the premises.
- On March 1, 2015 a customer reported she was robbed and assaulted at the premises.
- On March 18, 2015 an employee reported she was “assaulted with a bottle” at the premises.
- On March 27, 2015 police responded to a report of multiple gunshots fired into the vehicle of a customer as he was leaving Rachel's parking lot.
- On April 18 and August 9, 2015 police responded to calls of customers reporting they were assaulted by employees of Rachel's at the premises.
- On August 19, 2015 police responded to a report of a shooting at the premises and arrived to find a victim, who had been shot multiple times, lying in the parking lot.
- On August 28, 2015 a former employee of Rachel's reported she was assaulted by a then-current employee of Rachel's at the premises.
- On September 26, 2015 police responded to Mount Carmel East Hospital to take a report from a victim who claimed she was assaulted by a man while at Rachel's earlier that

evening, resulting in the victim suffering a broken clavicle.

- On November 10, 2015 police responded to a call from the premises of a man pointing a gun at customers of Rachel's.

Due to these serious incidents, the City of Columbus formally objected to the club's liquor permit renewal request in late 2015. On September 14, 2016 the Ohio Division of Liquor Control upheld the city's objection. However, the Hetzbach Corporation was granted a stay of the decision pending an appeal to the Liquor Control Commission; thus, allowing Rachel's to continue operating.

Police continued to respond to numerous reports of criminal acts of violence this year:

- On January 31, 2017 police responded to a physical altercation between "security staff and several patrons of the club."
- On March 20, 2017 a former employee of Rachel's reported she was assaulted by a then-current employee of Rachel's at the premises.
- On April 11, 2017 police responded to a reported robbery at the premises.
- On April 27, 2017 police responded to a call of shots fired at the premises.
- On May 6, 2017 police responded to a report of a person with a gun at the premises.
- On May 27, 2017 police responded to a call of shots fired at the premises.
- On June 1, 2017 police responded to a reported shooting at the premises and found a victim lying in a parking lot immediately adjacent to the premises. The victim later died as a result of his gunshot wounds and the case is being investigated as a potential homicide.

The Columbus Police Division also sent certified letters on February 21 and March 3 of this year to notify the owners that underage purchases of alcohol were occurring at the premises.

**"Columbus Police have repeatedly responded to reports of violence, specifically gun violence, at Rachel's in recent years," said Assistant City Attorney Steve Dunbar. "Today's court order provides a measure of relief to those who have been forced to endure this violence."**

A hearing to consider the city's complaint for preliminary and permanent injunctive relief against Rachel's and its owners is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 5, 2017 in the Franklin County Environmental Court.

A copy of the city's [complaint](#) and the court's [temporary restraining order](#) are available online.

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