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MEDIA ADVISORY

City Attorney Shuts Down ‘Boot Joint’

Illegal after-hours club operated next to an assisted living center for seniors

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr. announced that his office has successfully shut down an illegal after-hours club operating out of a residential home on the city’s northeast side. The property, located at 2820 Sunbury Road, is right next door to the New Salem Manor assisted living for seniors housing complex.

According to a sign found inside the premises, the club—known as “The White House”—was open every day except Monday.

The “White House” got its name from the fact that Antonio P. White admittedly ran the establishment “more or less.” White’s step-brother, Michael Lacey, and Lacey’s wife, Tina, are the owners of record for the property.

Between November 7, 2011 and May 21, 2012 CPD made at least 50 runs for service, including shootings, assaults, loud music, public indecency/urination, parking obstructions, and damaging of property. Most of the calls occurred between 3-6 a.m.

“This was an example of collaboration among the community, Columbus Division of Police, and our office,” said City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr.

On some nights, 14-40 cars were parked in and around the neighboring residential properties. On several occasions, witnesses observed a van acting as a shuttle to transport patrons.

Columbus Division of Police, Narcotics Bureau, Vice Unit began investigating after becoming aware illegal alcohol sales were possibly occurring.

On February 5, 2012 two individuals were shot on the premises at approximately 6:10 a.m. On February 22, 2012 Antonio P. White was shot in the leg.

A nuisance abatement complaint (case no. 2012 EVH 60122) was filed in Environmental Court against:

- Antonio P. White
- Dwain Walker (now deceased)
- Katrina Walker
- Michael and Tina Lacey (owners of 2820 Sunbury)
- The White House LLC

for “occupying or maintaining property...for the purpose of selling, bartering, possessing or keeping beer or intoxicating liquor in violation of law, thereby maintaining a public nuisance per se under Ohio Revised Code 3767.01 and 3767.02, subject to abatement under O.R.C. 3767”

The court declared 2820 Sunbury Rd. a nuisance and authorized the City of Columbus to board it up. The property must remain boarded up for one year per court order.

Parallel criminal charges also were filed against Antonio P. White (case no. 2012 CRB 004216) and Katrina Walker (case no. 2012 CR B 005349) for violation of Columbus City Code 2325.09 for "keeper of a place where intoxicating liquors are sold."

White was found guilty and sentenced to 30-days in jail on August 20, 2012.

Prior criminal charges against White include:

- Drug abuse (1998 CRA 018706)
- Endangering children (1999 CRB 020339)
- Felony trafficking in drugs and illegally carrying a concealed weapon (2001 CRA 007193)
- Illegally carrying a loaded handgun (2005 CRA 003980)
- Felony drug possession (2005 CRA 014707)
- Providing false information to mislead a public official (2007 CRB 027062)
- Domestic Violence and Assault (2011 CRB 009207 and 2011 CRB 025944)

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