



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Infamous Slumlord Back in Jail Following Latest Conviction

*Joseph S. Alaura, jailed in 2013, sentenced to more time behind bars after being found guilty in new criminal code violation case*

**COLUMBUS, OH**—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein announced today that long-time slumlord Joseph S. Alaura was immediately escorted to jail following a sentencing hearing this afternoon in Franklin County Environmental Court. The hearing was set for today after Alaura was criminally charged and convicted in February for violating the city's [nuisance abatement code](#). It's the eighth time Alaura, whose [history of code violations](#) dates back more than 20 years, has been convicted of zoning and code violations.

The City Attorney's Prosecution Division charged Alaura with a first degree misdemeanor for failing to properly secure and maintain a vacant duplex he owns, which suffered significant fire damage in 2016. The derelict property, located at [2015-2017 Fairmont Avenue](#) on the city's west side, is one of approximately 30 properties Alaura, of Cardington, Ohio, owns in Franklin County.

Pursuant to state law, a misdemeanor of the first degree is punishable by up to 180 days in jail and a \$1000 fine. The Franklin County Environmental Court gave him the full penalty but suspended 175 days of the jail sentence and fined him \$500. He also was placed on probation for five years and ordered to bring the property in question up to code. He also must serve 24 hours of community service, take a behavioral modification class, and provide the court with a full list of properties in which he holds a financial interest in Franklin County. All those properties must be maintained up to city code and he cannot purchase any additional properties without prior approval from the court.

**“We requested jail time and probation for this individual based upon a number of factors—his long history of prior convictions, his previous probation violations, and his refusal to acknowledge responsibility,” said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. “The most important priority for us, however, is doing whatever it takes to get landlords and property owners to understand their legal obligation to maintain their properties up to standards that don’t jeopardize the health and safety of their tenants and the neighbors who live nearby.”**

Alaura previously [spent time in jail](#) for violating city code in 2013. Officials estimate that he has been issued over a hundred violation notices, which are administrative orders sent to property owners to compel compliance prior to the City Attorney's office having to pursue criminal charges and/or civil complaints. Alaura also faces a separate, active civil case for building code violations at the Fairmont Avenue property.