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City Shutting Down West Side Drug House

Stockpile of weapons, drugs found onsite during police raids

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr. announced today that the City of Columbus secured a preliminary court order to vacate and shutter a west side property known for drug trafficking, prostitution and hosting a cache of deadly weapons. It is the eighth drug house the city has shut down on the west side this year.

The City Attorney's office filed a complaint for preliminary and permanent injunctive relief in the Franklin County Environmental Court to board up [69 Whitethorne Avenue](#), which is located less than a half-mile from Highland Elementary School and the J. Ashburn, Jr. Youth Center. The owner of record is Susanna K. Warren of Clintonville. Warren also is listed as the rental contact for the property.

The court granted the city's request for preliminary injunctive relief to shut down the property, which is being boarded up this afternoon, and accepted a stipulated resolution agreed upon by Warren and the City Attorney's office.

“Our attorneys are continuing to work aggressively with law enforcement and the community to identify persistently troublesome properties like this one,” said City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr.

Columbus police narcotics detectives began investigating the property late last year and made four covert purchases of heroin at the premises between December 27, 2016 and January 12, 2017.

Narcotics detectives executed a search warrant on January 12 and found 8.5 grams of heroin, 47 grams of marijuana, 500 pills, suboxone packets, thousands of dollars of cash, a SIG Sauer 9mm handgun, a Glock 9mm handgun, a Ruger 40 caliber handgun, a Smith & Wesson 40 caliber handgun, a Glock 40 caliber handgun, a laser site, and “magazines, live rounds, and miscellaneous ammunition.”

Police officials subsequently sent a certified letter to the owner notifying her of the nuisance criminal activity occurring at her property. The mail receipt was signed on January 17, 2017 but the illegal activities continued.

On February 10, 2017 police executed another search warrant at the premises and found 28 grams of crack-cocaine, 20 grams of marijuana, pills, “lots of cash,” a Smith & Wesson 9mm pistol, a Rossi .357 pistol (serial number “obliterated”), along with “other various guns” and ammunition.

On July 25, 2017 narcotics detectives made a covert purchase of crack-cocaine at the premises.

“There are children, seniors, and hard-working residents living nearby, whose health, safety, and well-being were put in jeopardy because of the illicit activities occurring at this property,” said Assistant City Attorney Kristen Dickerson. **“It was only a matter of time before a significant tragedy took place had the court not granted the temporary injunction.”**

In filing a civil motion for injunctive relief, Dickerson, who is the Zone Initiative Attorney assigned to the west side of Columbus, was seeking to prove that Warren is guilty of maintaining a nuisance by establishing that she, as owner of the premises, “knew of, participated in, or acquiesced to the activity which constituted the nuisance” as prescribed by [Chapter 3767](#) of the Ohio Revised Code.

Copies of the city’s [complaint](#) and [the agreed settlement/judgment entry](#) are available online.

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